THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY

Saturday 3 January 1998

70p (IR65p) No 3,498

Yes, it was my son says Straw. But IN TODAY'S PAPER I'm as hard-line on drugs as ever

Jack Straw spoke of his embarrassment yesterday as he was finally identified as the father of the teenager alleged to have sold drugs to a journalist. Michael Streeter and Colin Brown say he will press on with his crusade against crime and to make parents take more responsibility for their children's actions."

3 Atherton (Lenca)

k Butcher Surrey 25, Tes:s 5 y Caddick Some Sa 28, Tests 15

iey Cowen Side 22 Tests a Crawley Lang 25. Tests 22

Croft Carronger, Tests to Frase- Magesta Testa 😥 Headle, Keni

Hollioane Burrey

ampra-ash ALL

Stivenwood toke

Russell Goug

Stewart 1.119/

in Thorse $\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{F}_{S_0}}$

ufnell - total

ತಗಳಿತಿಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾ_{ನಿಗೆ}

april 1000 and ay Tropical res

Die Grund March

To J. B. M. Z.

37 March 3

salara ili men

医乳腺 化二重数

on Algorithms

go te

T=8:3

Tests _

Tes::

. Testa ,

Tests ~-

T≟sts ÷ja

-55.5 A

29, Tests 73. ser Hussain (Essex -cap:a/-/ 29. Tests 23

> The Home Secretary last night told of his "shock and concern" after learning that his son William faced an accusation of drug dealing after an undercover operation by the Mirror

> Mr Straw, who has spoken privately of his frustration over his enforced anonymity, said he was now "very relieved" to be able to speak out after the High Court lifted the ban onnaming his son,

He agreed that his William, aged 17, who has been accepted for a place at Oxford University, ought to expect no favours from the legal system, but neither should he suffer more for being the son of a prominent politician.

to me I felt the same emotions circumstances - those of shock and concern.

"Being a parent means giving love and support, and when it's necessary - confronting children with their wrong-doing. When a child does wrong, I believe it to be the duty of a parent to act promptly," Mr Straw said.

His son had gone voluntarily with him to the police and would accept "any sanctions" which arise. He was "of course" embarrassed by this but it did not affect his ability to speak on law and order matters including drugs policy. Neither he nor Downing Street had ever considered him resigning, and last night the Prime Minister's office said he had Tony Blair's full

"I have always sought - and so have my colleagues - to conduct our family lives the same way as other people.

These are experiences that other families have had and so it does not in any way affect my ability to talk on these matters." The naming of Mr Straw as

the father of the arrested youth

Thinking of braving the New

Year sales to buy the PC that

Christmas? Don't: it may be

sometime between April and

Microsoft plans to launch yet

Windows operating system,

you denied yourself at .

worth hanging on a few

The reason is that

June the software giant

another version of its

months longer. -

which, day by day, the secret trickled out in every bar England and Wales.

After what one opposition MP called "slow torture" for Mr Straw's family, a High Court judge, Mr Justice Toulson, lifted an injunction which banned the media in this country from identifying the youth.

On the day that Scottish newspapers published the minister's identity, the judge asked "whether it was sensible or appropriate for the court to maintain opposition in which matters can be published in Greenock but not in Carlisle".

His lifting of an injunction - originally granted at the wish of the Attorney General on Tuesday when the Sun threatened to publish - brought to an end a period not just of uncertainty for the Straws, but also a time of growing confusion

Newspapers in France, Ireland and media all around the world had revealed the identity of Mr Straw who was not named when the Mirror broke the story on Christmas Eve claiming that one of their reporters had bought £10 of cannabis from his 17-year-old son William.

William was arrested and released on police bail. Next week the Crown Prosecution "When the Mirror first spoke Service will decide whether to prosecute. There are indications believes that because of conflicts in evidence of what happened on the night there should be no further action, except possibly a caution for the youth. No decision has bee made yet on the reporter who reportedly received the drugs, Dawn Alford, who was arrested and bailed by police on Monday.

Philip Havers QC, for the Attorney General John Morris, had argued at a private hearing yesterday that the injunction granted by Mr Justice Moses on Tuesday should be continued.

But Mr Justice Toulson said when Mr Justice Moses made his order, the identity of the boy was not widely known and it was now common ground that "there had been a major change of circumstances".

The judge said a French newspaper had used the names and they were also available on the Internet. "The question is whether the stage has now been reached where it would be artificial to pretend that

provisionally (if

unimaginatively) named

want it on your machine

"Windows98". And if you

The news is another.

example of the relentless

computer industry, which

could put the fashion world

Most notably, computer

updating typical of the

to shame.

then, you'll have to pay for it.

anonymity can be preserved." Saturday Story, page 13 Leading article, page 14



Jack Straw at the Home Office before yesterday's press conference

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

More Billy Whizz than Jack the Lad

The Christmas period should have been a particularly happy time for William Straw. He had just been accepted for a place at Oxford University - the letter arrived on Christmas Eve - to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics providing he gets the right grades in his A levels later this year.

Instead this news was completely overshadowed by events in a London pub. when he is alleged to have sold to £10 worth of cannabis to an uncover reporter for the Mirror, a chain reaction which led to yesterday's events.

companies never seem to be

coincide with Christmas. Last

year Intel, which makes the

chips that power most PCs,

came under fire for delaying

the launch of its MMX chip,

especially able to handle the

"multimedia" requirements

At the time, the editor of

of many games programs,

until January.

able to time anything to

Thinking of rushing to the sales to buy that computer? Think again

Whatever the truth of those claims and a decision will be made next week on whether he faces any prosecution - these who know him describe William as a "decent, amusing young man". Looking like a trendier version of his father, the 17year-old has a droll sense of humour. strong views of his own and, until this affair, had handled the difficulty of being a "famous son" very well. He has been interested in a career in journalism -

though perhaps less so just at the moment. His family nickname "Whizz", comes not, as has been suggested for drug-re-

spokesman vesterday did say

upgrades; if your PC does not

that there will be no free

have Windows98 you will

The new product will

software presently separate -

Microsoft's Internet Explorer

(1E) browser for surfing Web

integrate many pieces of

such as the Windows95

operating system and

have to buy it.

Computer Life magazine. Jan

Howells, said: "I think people

will be really annoyed. Intel

plan a massive advertising

campaign and Joe Public is

going to say: 'Why wasn't I

Microsoft is planning a

blitz later this year - though

the price of the software has

not been decided. But a

told about this before

Christmas?"."

lated reasons, but means "whizz-kid" given to him because he was sufficiently able at school to move up a a year. Unlike other new Labour children, he has been educated at a comprehensive - Pimlico school in south-west London, where he is studying for his A-levels. His father is chair of the board of governors.

His mother is Alice Perkins, a deputy director of public spending at the Treasury. and he has one sister. The family spent Christmas at their Oxfordshire cottage.

 Michael Streeter Legal Affairs Correspondent

sites. Indeed, testers who

have tried Windows98 say

document or program

that it seems to make every

resemble an extension of the

Internet. For example, if a

word-processing document

as www.independent.co.uk)

IE and connect you to that

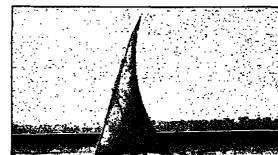
contains a Web address (such

then clicking on it will launch

definitive package **MAGAZINE**

Twelve months,

12 holidays. The



Bask in the winter sun-but don't pay as much as the Blairs

TIME OFF

Plus: films, TV, theatre, clubs and music

THE EYE

How to become a Freelance Writer

ing writers themselves. From

the start they are shown how to

produce saleable work. 'At the

Bureau our philosophy is quite

simple' says Mr. Metcalfe. 'We

will do everything in our power

to help students become

The course comes on fifteen

days' free trial. In addition, the

Bureau offers a remarkable

money-back guarantee - if you

haven't earned your tuition

fees from published writing

within one month of

published writers."

Freelance writing can be fiction and non-fiction writing. The 140,000 word course is creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be written by professional writers made as well. What's more, and has been acclaimed by anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or Students receive one-to-one experience are required. guidance from tutors, all work-

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelances. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains, 'If you want must have is proper training."

to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you The Writers Bureau runs a comprehensive correspondence course covering every aspect of post the coupon today!

completing the course, your money will be refunded in full. So, would you like to be a writer? Why not start now ring our free enquiry line or

FREE CALL 0800 856 2008 DEPT. AF318

Why not be a writer?

First-class home-study course gets you a flying start. Earn while you learn. Expert tutors, personal guidance, help to sell your writing and much more! It's ideal for beginners. Details free. No cost. No obligation.

The Writers Bureau Freepost AF318, Manchester, U.K. M1 8DJ ACCREDITED COL Quality Council MEMBER

TODAY'S NEWS

Frank Muir dies

The veteran comedy writer and broadcaster Frank Muir died yesterday, aged 77. He died in bed after watching Forrest Gump on television. and commending the script. His wife said: "We watched the film together and he really enjoyed it" Report, Page 3; Barry Took, page 16

Gales on the way

Britain is bracing itself for another lashing from the weather, as the latest in a series of storms approaches from the west. Forecasters expect gales reaching 70mph to combine with driving rain today to produce the worst weather since Christmas Eve. Page 6

Ulster police move

Police action has been intensified in a move to foil loyalist attacks on Catholics in Ulster. the chief constable, Ronnie Flanagan, said. In a separate move, the terrorist suspect Roisin McAliskey was committed for extradition to Germany to face bomb charges. Page 4

Service R Time Off, page 2 The Eye Page 24 and Time Off, page 12

independent.co.uk



X COLUMN ONE

Dazed and confused, we hurtle towards 2000

As we hurtle towards the Millennium, armed with state-of-the-art technology and all manner of time-saving devices, it is all getting too much. Nearly three-quarters of Britons say they are finding life far too complicated and that unnecessary complexities are making them miserable.

While that time-honoured mystery of "the opposite sex" is still a cause of complication for one in five people and "general changes in society" are making life complex for one in 10, it is the day-to-day tasks of everyday living which are perplexing the majority.

According to a survey commissioned by Abbey National, modern minds are boggled by assembling DIY furniture (42.7 per cent), programming a video recorder (41.9 per cent) and understanding a railway timetable (31.6 per cent). The one thing we find more difficult to cope with than timesaving gadgets is finding the time to meet all our modern-day commitments.

Respondents to the survey branded professionals "Masters in the Art of Confusion". Lawyers came out worst, with four out of 10 people blaming them for needless complexity. Computer sales people were accused of making even simple explanations mind- numbingly complex. One in 10 charged their bank manager with the same offence.

So-called media buzz-words came if for some flak, too. Fifty per cent of those surveyed said they found the single European currency too confusing to make sense of, 43 per cent found the Millennium Project impossible to understand, and 27.3 per cent could not grasp the fundamentals of BSE. But the good news is that most of us won't be beaten by the complexities of modern living. Rather, we rise to the challenge - each in our own

way. Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, has identified five different personality types for dealing with life's complexities. First there is the "DIWhy?", best typified by the Carol Vordermans of this world. "Most of us fall into this category to some extent," said Dr Lewis. "A determined and dedicated group which tries very hard to make sense out of even the most complicated issues. When they succeed they feel a

great sense of achievement - but can be quite serious." To the "Juggler", complexity equals fun. To these Chris Evans-like characters, the more demanding the lifestyle, the better. "They don't take complexity seriously and so live life to the full - though sometimes people find

it hard to take them seriously," said Dr Lewis. The "Hippy Go-lucky" hopes that by not looking at something, it will go away. He or she makes no attempt to understand anything which looks or sounds the least bit complicated.

Step forward the "Joker", the one who is "great fun at a party, cheerily going through life without believing anything is the least bit complicated." They don't tend to get an awful lot done, but what they do, they do with a smile on their face," said Dr Lewis.

Then there is the "Delegator". Delegators make sure they have a lot of "DIWhys?" amongst their friends. "This group believes that life's complications should be dealt with by someone else on their behalf." --- Clare Garner

CONTENTS News Your Money

21-22 The Big Picture Africa Time Off, 12. World news Crossword ... Time Off, 2 Weather Arts Time Off, 9 Saturday story Travei Time Off, 10 Leader, letters Gardening Time Off, 14-24 Comment Sport The Eye Obituaries TV & radio 17-20 Business

TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2.42 Italy (lira) 2,827 213.20 Austria (schillings) 20. IO lapan (yen) Malta (lira) 0.62 59. JI Belgium (francs) 227 Netherlands (guilders) 3.22 Canada (\$) **U.78** 0.84 Norway (kroner) Cyprus (pounds) Portugal (escudos) 291.25 Ю.97 Denmark (kroner) 241.47 France (francs) 9.56 Spain (pesetas) Germany (marks) 2.87 12.72 Sweden (kroner) 2.34 Greece (drachmei) 455.51 Switzerland (francs) Hong Kong (\$) 12.28 Turkey (lira) 325,847 **USA (\$)** 1.60 Ireland (punts) roe: Thomas Cool

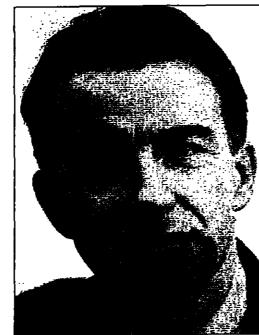


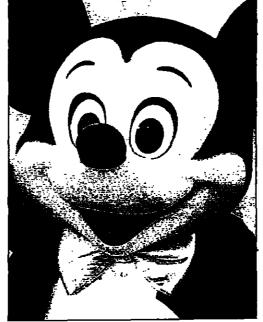
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41,4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

treedom

to be...

PEOPLE





Taking the Mickey: Peter Mandelson and his mentor for the Millennium Experience

Mandelson goes in search of Mickey's magic

visiting Disneyworld and the Epcot centre today on a fact-finding mission for the Millennium Experience. The prospect of a postcard from "Mandy" about his meeting with Mickey Mouse has Westminster agog.

The Millennium Dome is unlikely to sprout two big black ears even if Mr Mandelson, finds it hard to avoid a photo-opportunity with the most famous resident of Disneyworld.

The minister is keen to avoid suggestions that the Millennium Experience is going to be turned into a Disney theme park or a Mickey Mouse project.

The aim of his visit to the world-famous tourist attractions in Orlando, Florida, is to learn some of the lessons for attracting millions of visitors to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. He is due to visit the Magic Kingdom, Typhoon Lagoon and the MGM studios where the films were made, but Mr Mandelson is likely to spend more time in the Epcot Centre with its "future world" pavilions of the

Living Seas, the Universe of Energy and the Land. He will also see the "world showcase" at Epcot (experimental prototype community of tomorrow)

Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio, is depicting life in 11 countries as visualised by the designers of Disney, including a typical English pub, the Rose and Crown, and a mock-up of Anne Hathaway's cottage with thatched roof made of plastic to meet the Florida fire regulations.

The Elizabethan Olde Worlde, red telephone boxes, and the Lords and Ladies china shop may be as remote from reality as the Never Never Land in Disney movies, but Mr Mandelson is looking at the way the message is put across as much as the content.

Having persuaded the Cabinet not to cancel the Millennium exhibition, Mr Mandelson has appeared vague about what he intends to put in it. A select committee reported: "From what we know so far, the Millennium Experience is not so much a journey through time as ... a journey into the unknown."

Mr Mandelson may learn that it took even the skilled practitioners of fantasy at Disney took at least a decade to make their centres the success they are today. With only two years to go before the Millennium Experience is opened, he may return wishing he had Mickey's magic wand from Fantasia.

— Colin Brown

Phoenix and Cobain to live again in US novel

the two tragic heroes of Nineties teenagers, have appeared together as fictional characters in a novel by the cult film director Gus Van

and was part of the Pacific North American "chemical generation". a Seattle hotel room in 1995.

Phoenix, who died outside a cocaine in 1993, becomes the drug with the flight by Blackie and stroyed cruelly like drowning a litburn-out Felix Arroyo, the star Spunky from the Cloudy-Bright tle puppy after you are tired of weird commercials made by a Rehab Center. "I'm interpreting playing with it."

Latin for "happy" and an arroyo is a temporary desert river.

A rock couple, Blackie and Blake, are based on Van Sant's Van Sant, who directed and his wife, Courtney Love, the to get in character for the heroin Phoenix in My Own Private Idaho, actress and singer. Cobain was a addict he played in My Own Priheroin addict who with Nirvana de- vate Idaho. But now the The Los West underground scene with Nir- fined the grunge sound and look Angeles Times has described the vana lead singer Cobain, has just of the early Nineties. He commit-novel as a "posthumous love letted suicide by shooting himself in ter to River Phoenix".

A chapter with the Internetnightclub after taking heroin and style title Pink.Alt.Universe deals character called Spunky, who Van parts of real-life experiences into

River Phoenix and Kurt Cobain, Sant has based on himself. Felix is this sort of more fanciful collage," says Van Sant of the book.,

Van Sant was blamed by some of River Phoenix's fans for the actor's death because it was believed real-life acquaintances. Cobain that Phoenix started taking drugs

> In Van Sant's book, pink is the colour film turns when it fades and decays, and then he says is "de-

- Paul McCann

Anthea Turner announces marriage split

Showbiz couple Anthea Turner and Peter Powell yesterday announced they are to separate after eight years of marriage. A statement by solicitor and close friend Mark Stephens revealed that the split was amicable and that Ms Turner is now in a new relationship.

She spoke about her marriage in the statement and said: "We began as lovers and somewhere along the way work became our abiding passion. The breakdown of a warm and loving marriage is too high a price to pay for apparent success."

EXPERIENCE THE

FREEDOM OF

THE CONTINENT

WITH OUR NEW

'98 BROCHURE

There's only

one Buddy,

says Sheikh

As if Bill Clinton didn't have

enough on his plate, legally

speaking, he now faces the

prospect of litigation brought by

a most unusual plaintiff. Claim-

ing psychological distress and

Shiekh Buddy, (pictured,

But on holiday in the Virgin

She went on to disclose how her relationship with Grant Bovey began and said: "What has happened between Grant and me was borne out of circumstance and our emotional response to it has been beyond the control of either of us." She said that she bitterly regrets the hurt caused to others and said she accepts her share of responsibility.

Mr Powell said in the statement: "I have always loved Anthea and I will continue to do so. She will always have my support."



UPDATE

Experts sound hi-fi warning

Christmas gifts of powerful hi-fis and personal stereos could leave proud owners with more than the sound of sweet music, health experts have warned. Tinnitus Action, which represents nearly five million adults who suffer from constant noises in the head, wants hi-fi equipment to carry tinnitus danger warnings and has sent tapes of tormenting noises to Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and William Hague, the Tory leader.

our life unde

spiona

s riddle

-5-----

g- 5-3-2

mg(Cr.5-4

Tinnitus results in permanent head sounds, heard by no one but the sufferer, range from hisses to noises like an electric drill, banging metal or bigh-pitched whistles. Any sound louder than 85 decibels can cause tinnitus, either immediately or after a delay. Often the noises stay for life. Majorie Hooper, chairman of Tinnitus Action, said: "Anyone of any age would be delighted to receive hi-fi equipment or the latest in personal

stereos as presents, without giving a thought to the serious dangers involved. "It is troubling that such items intended for pleasure can, for some, be an introduction to one of the commonest and potentially extremely serious medical conditions."

She said some 600,000 people in the UK already have tinnitus so badly that their quality of life is affected. The popularity of loud music has been identified as one cause of the trouble.

"Mr Blair and Mr Hague are both pop music fans, so it is apt that they should know the sort of ... sounds now awaiting unsuspecting people, as

well as those experienced already by a huge number of the electorate. "It is time politicians took tinnitus seriously and gave it priority in research and treatment, instead of leaving it as the Cinderella of the NHS:"



HEALTH

More baby Dianas after Paris death

The number of babies named Diana increased dramatically in the weeks following the death of the Princess of Wales - although Diana still did not make it into 1997's top 50 names for girls.

For most of last year an average of three babies a month were named Diana, but in September, 29 girls became namesakes of the Princess. Chloe claimed the number one spot, followed by Emily, Sophie, Jessica and Megan. according to the Office of National Statistics, which released its annual charts yesterday. Besides Diana's death, another event which appears to have influenced parents' choices occurred in EastEnders. Grant Mitchell, the soap's bad-boy, and his barmaid wife Tiffamy's choice of the name Courtney for their daughter may account for the fact that this year Courtney appears in the top 50 for the first time, leaping 34 places to number 20. Another explanation might be the fact that actress Courtney Love, widow of Nirvana star Kurt Cobain, has cleaned up her image.

Boys' names remained far more consistent than girls', with Jack remaining the most popular boys' name for the third year running. The new entry. Joe, at 49, could be attributed to the rising fame of EastEnders heart throb Paul Nicholls, who played the disturbed but appealing Joe in the BBC soap

	TOP 20 GIRLS' NAMES IN 1997	TOP 20 BOYS' NAMES IN 199
	1) Chloe 2) Emily 3) Sophie 4) Jessica 5) Megan 6) Hannah 7) Rebecca 8) Lauren 9) Charlotte 10) Georgia 11) Amy 12) Lucy 13) Emma 14) Bethany 15) Katie 16) Shannon 17) Laura 18) Olivia 19) Eleanor	1) Jack 2) james 3) Thomas 4) Daniel 5) Joshua 6) Matthew 7) Samuel 8) Joseph 9) Ryan 10) Jordan 11) Luke 12) Connor 13) Liam 14) Benjamin 15) Callum 16) Alexander 17) Harry 18) George 19) William
l .	_	••

SOCIETY

Teenagers put cash before rebellion

Britain's teenagers are planning a very sensible 1998, according to research released yesterday by NatWest. The most popular New Year's resolution among 12- to 18-year-olds is to look after their money, followed closely by giving up smoking, and concentrating on their homework.

After greater fiscal discipline, teenagers most wanted to stop smoking. do better at school, stop biting their nails and eat fewer sweets. Further down the list, but very topical, was a desire to give up taking drugs. Other items on the adolescent wish-list included finding a new boyfriend or girlfriend and behaving better.

However, despite a range of very unrebellious ambitious such as being more tidy, the number of teenagers pledging to reform themselves in 1998 has dropped since last year. In 1996 57 per cent of teenagers made a New Year's resolution, this year the figure is 53 per cent.

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman









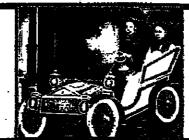
All the second of the

Sand and

اعكذا من الاعل

IN NEXT WEEK'S INDEPENDENT

TAKING TONTROL Feeling that your life is out of control is the biggest modern anxiety. From Monday and throughout next week we address the question of how to get your life under control. Don't start the week without it.



Exclusive: a century in photographs - 98 years, 98 pictures

Espionage mystery as riddle of sunken trawler unravels

An 'unsinkable' trawier went down 23 years ago with all 36 hands on board in mysterious circumstances. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports that the Government will pay for an underwater survey which could solve the enigma of the Gaul.

seos could Jeave build th expens have wanted

illion adulis who suffer oment to carry tinning

g noises to Tony Blan

ard by ner one but the

are by the one out the fie drill, beinging meal as decibels can cause the noises stay for life

Said: "Anvone of an

or the latest in persons arious dangers in ohig asure can, her come be nially extremely wright

y have tinamus so hath of loud music has her

es, so it is apt that the suspecting people, r of the electorate gave it priority in the

iderella dibe NHS.

Paris deal

and the Property Cale

Asia, kasan in Magai

North William Control

edere Gru Manie

case of the total of the

had this year to tes

i militar in til ". i

Continue Louisi

maga Propositi

1.02.00 2002

and the million BAC to

re rebelig

Now Western

m ... :

 $\leq 2 L_1 2^{m 2 (m)^{-1/4}}$ wighter than

1, E21 · · · · · **全项**部6555223

us of the contract

ng to the

Scott & Jim Bon

.53 5. . . .

After a cover-up lasting nearly a quarter of a century surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the Gaul, an "unsinkable" high-tech factory trawler, ministers have decided to fund an underwater survey which could solve the mystery of how and why it went down with all hands on board.

Relatives of the 36 crew who lost their lives have been fighting since the ship was lost in 1974 for successive governments to find the sunken trawler and discover why it sank almost without trace, and without issuing a distress signal.

been on a spying mission, during which it was sunk by a Soviet torpedo. Successive governments denied that trawlers were used for spying, although around the port in Hull, where to locate the vessel, and they rethe deep sea fleet was based, that crews were routinely asked to report on Soviet submarine the Government admitted that there had been a cover-up.

Alan Johnson, one of the Hull MPs – who include John Prescott, now the Secretary of State responsible for shipping inquiries - who has campaigned for the Government to act, told the Commons in December

wrote to the relatives in 1974 saying: "I can assure you that the British trawler fleet is not involved in any way in any intelligence gathering." That as-

surance was repeated in 1992. The cover-up over the use of trawlers for spying ended when defence ministers admitted in written Commons answers last month that trawlers had been used "for specific intelligence gathering operations against the former Soviet navy" in the 1960s and early 1970s. Lord Rogers says he was misled.

"At the time there was also a scheme whereby Royal Navy officers gained sea going experience in merchant ships, including deep sea trawlers. All RN personnel were encouraged to report back any opportunity sightings of interest as indeed were the trawlermen," said John Reid, the defence minister.

There was a suspicion among some of the Gaul families that ministers in previous governments had been rejuctant to authorise the search for the Gaul because they feared its dis-They suspect it may have covery would disclose the truth about its secret spying mission.

The only trace of the ship was a lifebuoy which was found some time after the trawler went missing. Ministers insisted fused to carry out a search. The families campaigned in vain of less than £50,000. Using reports of where the ship might have gone down and sonar technology, it was located in two days 270 meters down on the seabed in the Barents sea, 60

miles off the coast of Norway. An inquiry into the loss of the Herald of Free Enterprise.

that Lord Rogers, then the Gaul found that it was Labour's defence minister, probably overwhelmed in heavy

But in a Commons debate to plead for Government intervention last month, Mr Johnson said the Gaul was only two years old when it sank. Its safety features included a dual radar system, automatic steering, high quality radio and telegraphy equipment. It had an experienced skipper and crew, and the vessel and crew were familiar with Arctic conditions.

Underwater cameras found the Gaul almost intact, with all its windows in place, and it was facing into the direction of the prevailing weather at the time it disappeared.

Glenda Jackson, the transport minister, said there was no evidence that the Gaul had been sunk by enemy fire. "The fact that panes of glass were still intact and the absence of damage to the other parts rule out an explosion, high-impact damage or attack by

any form of weapon." she said. The Ministry of Defence said that the use of trawlers for counter-espionage ceased in 1973 - a year before the Gaul went down. Ms Jackson told the Commons the Gaul "played no part in intelligence-gathering activities".

would agree to a further survey it was common knowledge that it would be too expensive of the vessel in the spring. when the weather improved.

that the Deputy Prime Minister over our competitors - even if until last year a survey was car- has authorised a new camera sightings. Just before Christmas, ried out for the Channel Four survey, costing around £100,000, programme Dispatches at a cost of the Gaul. It will concentrate on the stern, where nets prevented the Channel Four cameras from a thorough search. The fresh survey may find that the stern "door" was left open and the vessel was overwhelmed by inrushing seas, like the ferry

vance of a round of talks on the sovereignty of Gibraltar, a bug was found inside the private of-

put there by a British spy.

said Mr West.

thing which showed, for example, that French communication we have to listen in to make sure the Foreign Secretary.

going to let it out. The process is controlled by the Joint Intelligence Committee, but a clan-

versation, intercept any mail or not have to be hostile and it can they are safe; there's no-point. An intelligence source, who

During the Seventies, in ad- the country being observed," formation with them if they're "The minister would have to weigh the value of the information that might be gleaned against the potential embarrassment of being caught.

"But the other countries do it to us, too. It's all part of the game and the rewards for the winner can be immeasurable."



Under fire: Pierce Brosnan plays spy hero in the latest 007 spectacular Tomorrow Never Dies, while real-life espionage continues in a lower key

So who are our spies snooping on today?

When William Waldegrave, a former Foreign Office minister, spoke yesterday of "tapes of what some foreign leader said in his bath", he wasn't joking.

Britain's Secret Intelligence The minister hinted that she Service. M16, would not hesitate to try to listen in on any conhack into any computer if it sometimes be to the benefit of us sharing highly sensitive in- asked not to be named, said: The Independent has learned would give the country an edge

> they happen to be our friends. Intelligence experts were staggered vesterday that anyone should be at all surprised at M16 conducting secret operations against Britain's European Union partners.

> "That's its job," said Nigel West, an intelligence historian. "The Secret Intelligence Service costs £900m a year and if it couldn't assist ministers in finding out what other states are up to, then it wouldn't be worth the money.

The targets in modern-day espionage, aside from drug trafficking and money laundering. are primarily political and economic rather than military. If a British minister has to enter negotiations with other countries. he wants to know what their positions will be before he enters

If that means bugging the home of a senior foreign official or an EU commissioner, then, with ministerial permission, its operatives will do it.

They recruit contacts inside government departments and. using Britain's electronic listening station GCHQ, they pick up whatever conversations

fice of the Spanish prime min-

"Intelligence gathering does

"If we intercepted some-

ister. It is thought to have been systems were not secure, then eavesdropping operation would France would be grateful. But require personal approval from

— Steve Boggan

of \$250. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services Freegos: Leads 1539 2RF Arris Direct is a division of Midland Bank pic. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The busis comprise less of 28 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs comprise less of 25 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Appropriate peraiss are based on the Current Plus Appropria. The costs comprise tees of £5 per month, All fees may vary in the future. **Pirst Direct** venable interest rate for overdrafts of \$256 is 12.69; EAR, All information based on authorised overdiraits of £250 for 5 days or more per month and correct at 23 December 1997.

Long haul: Hull MP Alan Johnson who backed the Gaul families

Photograph: John Voos

We also give you a £250 overdraft facility free of any fees, because we appreciate that from time to time you may need a little flexibility. you don't want a closed bank... ...so we've never closed. We are open 24 hours a

you don't want to pay...

...so there's no need to. At First Direct, the UK's

leading 24 hour telephone bank, everyday banking

transactions are free, even if you're overdrawn.

day, 365 days a year. Bank with us by telephone and you can call from anywhere in the UK at anytime for the cost of a local call. Which means no long treks to the high street and no queueing either.

you don't want hassle getting cash...

...so we give you the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from more than 13,500 cash machines across the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees your cheques for £100 and lets you pay by Switch. Paying in is just as easy - at any Midland or direct to us by post.

you don't want hassle paying bills...

...so we pay bills for you. Simply call us, tell us who to pay, how much and when. This way you can easily organise everything to suit you best, then forget it - we'll make all the arrangements.

you don't want poor service...

...so we make sure you never get it. Every call is answered by our friendly and professional Banking Representatives, who will deal immediately with your day-to-day banking needs. And they are supported by specialists ready to help with all of your more complex banking requirements.

you don't want to have to shop around...

...so we make sure you don't have to. You have access to a comprehensive range of direct banking services. These include a fee free Visa Card, a range of saving and borrowing opportunities, a no gimmicks home buying service, along with insurance and travel services too.

you don't want hassle moving...

...so we make it simple to open an account, transfer your salary and other banking transactions. You'll find that as members of the HSBC Group, one of the world's largest financial services organisations, we provide the best service to all our 800,000 customers from day one. And it's easy and free to find out more about 24 hour banking - call now on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

Frank Muir, a king of comedy, dies

Frank Muir, one of the great post-war television and radio comedy writers, died yesterday. David Lister reviews the career of a humorist who became disillusioned with the humour of today.

With his six-foot-six-inch frame, mellifluous voice, bright pink bow ties and bushy RAF moustache, Frank Muir, who died vesterday at the age of 77, is a figure etched in the memory of viewers of such television series as Call My Bluff.

But Muir's greatest talent was not in front of the cameras, but as one of the most successful comedy scriptwriters and producers of the television and radio age. His partnership with



Frank Muir: Brought classic comedies to TV and radio

Dennis Norden produced the radio sitcom classic Take It From Here and television series such as Wacko, as well as classic

sketches for Peter Sellers. After the Muir-Norden partnership ended in 1964 and Norden went on to take a greater writing to the end."

role in front of the cameras, Muir did some of his most im- her husband when he died, just portant work, becoming assistant head of comedy for the BBC and then head of comedy for London Weekend Television. He became executive producer of such classics as Hancock's Half Hour, Steptoe has for 18 years been a designand Son, The Rag Trade, All Gas and Gaiters, Till Death Us Do Part, On the Buses, Please Sir!, and Not Only ... But Also. He began scriptwriting during service in the Second World War when he became involved with

Frank Muir died in bed hours after spending an evening watching the film Forrest Gump on television, and commending the script, his wife Polly, 72, said yesterday. "We watched the film together and he thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. "He maintained an interest in comedy

broadcasting to the troops.

Mrs Muir said she was with after mid-day. She had since broken the news to their two children. Their son Jamie is a television arts producer and their daughter Sally, married to journalist Geoffrey Wheatcroft, er of knitwear.

Muir's death comes three months after he published his memoirs, A Kentish Lad. In a recent interview, Muir lamented the changes to both

television comedy and television in general. He said: "I see some smartarse sitcom, like Men Behaving Badly, and then I see Dad's Army, or Till Death Us Do Part ... and the craftsmanship is infinitely greater."Dennis Norden said yesterday: "He was like a brother to me. Nothing is adequate to express my feelings." Obituary by Barry Took, page 16

free? Annual current account charges Lloyds Classic £96.00 NatWest Current Plus Barclays Bank Account First Direct Cheque Account for 24 hour banking call free **2** 0800 **24 24 24** or complete the coupon and post to: First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title

why not

bank for

Mowlam steps up security in Ulster

As 150 Republican and Loyalist inmates released on parole for Christmas filed back into the Maze high security prison yesterday, the RUC announced that troops were being ordered back onto the streets of Ulster. Louise Jury in Belfast heard Mo Mowlam back a new security ciampdown

Describing the factional killing and worsening security situation in the province as "serious" but "not out of control". Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, insisted she was not intending to resign. Instead she announced the stepping up of security and an extended investigation into operational policy at the Maze.

Just one month after daytime military patrols in support of the police were stopped, RUC chiefs decided to reintroduce them when necessary as part of fresh measures to try to thwart hit-and-run loyalist gunmen shooting Catholics in revenge for the INLA murder of Loyalist Volunteer Force chief.

After separate attacks which left two Catholics dead and up to a dozen more injured in Belfast and Dungannon, the fear now is that a vicious tit-fortat shooting war could erupt between rival loyalist and republican factions not on ceasefire. The doomsday scenario envisages other groups being drawn into the fray, including the IRA, which is

sticking to its truce. Last night, Ms Mowlam announced that she would hold an urgent round of meetings with leaders of all the main political parties in Belfast, starting next Monday, in advance of the resumption of the Stormont negotiations on 12 January.

Speaking after talks with Ronnie Flanagan, the Royal Ulster Constabulary chief constable. Ms Mowlam also backed the setting up of security patrols. She said she had repeatedly expressed her desire to see a reduction in security activity and a return to normality as soon as But she said they had been

able to increase security very quickly in response to the "irresponsible, cruel and utterly futile" acts of recent violence.

"The deplorable events of the past few days have raised fears in both communities. Real fears which do not go away easily," she said.

We as government will do all we can to make sure these fears are not realised. The best day to do this and to establish confidence is by making the talks process work. The situation now is serious but it is not out of control."

Ronnie Flanagan appealed for the public's help in preventing further attacks.

"We have had dreadful murders in recent days and sadly I cannot say that is the last murder we are going to witness. But it must be kept in propor-

Doormen and former IRA prisoner Seamus Dillon, 46, was shot within hours of the murder of Billy Wright. Eddie Treanor, 31, a civil servant with no Republican ties, was murdered in a bar on New Year's

The Loyalist Volunteer Force claimed responsibility for both attacks although suspicions have been raised that more mainstream loyalist para militaries such as the Ulster Defence Association might have helped the LVF carry out Wednesday's attack.



Bernadette McAliskey outside Bow Street magistrates' yesterday after her daughter Roisin was committed for extradition Photograph: PA

Court commits McAliskey for extradition

The IRA terrorist suspect Roisin McAliskey was yesterday committed for extradition to Germany to face bombing charges.

Nicholas Evans, stipendiary magistrate sitting at Bow Street Court in central London, gave the go-ahead.

Her lawyers said the decision will clear the way for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to decide on extensive legal arguments urging him to stop the extradition.

Miss McAliskey, 26, is wanted by German authorities as an alleged member of an IRA unit that mortar-bombed a British Army barracks in Osnabruck in June 1996.

During a 20-minute hearing, Mr Evans told the court: "In the par-

health, I now commit her on her absence to await the decision of the Secretary of State about her extradition to Germany.

Her supporters, many of whom were outside court waving hanners protesting her innocence, claim that since her arrest 14 months ago, police and prosecutors have yet to establish her whereabouts at the time of the bombing.

They argue that there is a "mass" of documentary and eye-witness evidence confirming her presence in Northern Ireland on the dates when the woman sought by the police was sighted in Germany.

McAliskey, who denies any involvement in the mortar attack, was ticular circumstances of this case, arrested at her home in Coalisland, talling £100,000 was £30,000 given by fence and 1 believe we will resolve bearing in mind McAliskey's state of Co Tyrone, in November 1996 when the writer and broadcaster Jeremy this matter fairly."

pregnant, and was detained as a highrisk prisoner in Holloway and Belmarsh Prisons in London. Last May. three days before her baby was born, she was released on bail by a High Court Judge and has been staying at a mother-and-baby unit at the Maudsley Hospital, south London,

where she is being treated for post-

traumatic stress disorder.

Yesterday's bail was granted on the condition that she resides 24 hours a day in a hospital mother-andbaby unit; that a surety of £100.000 is taken; that a £95,000 security is deposited with solicitors; and that she agrees to consent to all future med-

ical and psychiatric reports. Included in the five sureties toHardy. Lin Soloman, a human rights campaigner, also provided a surety of £30,000 in court.

Speaking outside court, Mr Hardy said he was not particularly optimistic about Mr Straw's forthcoming decision."We fear that the Government is so desperate to please loyalists that they will use Roisin as a sacrifice. I am not optimistic, but Mr Straw has evidence that Roisin is unwell and evidence that she is innocent."

Afterwards, Miss McAliskey's mother, the former mid-Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey, who was in court, said they were now eagerly awaiting Mr Straw's decision.

"My daughter is innocent," she said. "She is not charged with any of-

Companies must open staff files

Soon you will have the right to look at every scrap of personal information your boss holds on you. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, hears advice that companies should make an early start on 'spring cleaning' their records or face the threat of legal action from employees.

It is a rare manager who harbours no ill will to at least some of his staff. In future, however, he or she would do well to keep derogatory opinions about employees to themselves - or at least refrain from committing them to paper.

Within the next few weeks, ministers intend to publish the Data Protection Bill, which will substantially enhance workers' rights to scrutinise their personal records. get them put right if necessary and in cases of serious error, enable them to take their bosses to court. Some managers routinely keep notes on staff which accuse them of a wide range of social unpleasantries from being a habitual fibber to being the main source of office odours.

More seriously, records may contain accusations of kleptomania or sexual harassment. Unless there is proof of such unlawful activities, an organisation could find itself embroiled in a libel suit.

Records may contain inaccurate information which affects an employee's pay, promotion and prospects, says Angela Edward, a policy adviser at the Institute of Personnel Development. "Employees will have the right to know what information employees keep on them and how it is used," she said.

Workers are already protected under the 1984 Data Protection Act, but its provisions cover computer records only. Under this law, there is no financial redress, simply a right to have information corrected where necessary. The legislation was, however, seen to be inadequate under European directives and the current Bill has been drawn up with a view to introducing stricter rules by October.

Warning that there could be serious financial implications for employers found keeping inaccurate information, Ms Edward advised companies "to act now". She emphasised the need for employees to check nformation that had been gathered, particularly informal records.

Lunn Poly The UK's No.1 Holiday Shop



SUMMER'98 IN ORLANDO FROM £405

Book a Virgin Holidays summer '98 holiday at Lunn Poly now and save 10%. Prices start from just £405 per person for bed and breakfast in the "Economy Inns of America" and include car hire. Just take out our Holidaycare insurance when you book!

Or choose free insurance on Virgin Holidays summer '98 holidays costing £399 or more per person.

More discounts, more customers, that's what makes Lunn Poly No.1. **CHECK LUNN POLY PRICES BEFORE YOU BOOK**



Rapist may have put drug in woman's drink

A woman who was raped near a nightclub may have accepted a drink which had been spiked, police said yesterday.

Officers are investigating the possibility that the woman was fed the so-called "date-rape drug" Rohypnol, which incapacitates women to the point where they are unable to resist their attackers.

The 20-year-old woman told police that, two days before Christmas, she accepted an offer of a drink from a man at the Rumbarbar nightclub in London's Trocadero Centre, but felt ill soon after drinking it. She went outside into the street, and believes she was then followed outside, where she was raped, possibly by more than one man.

The victim then wandered the streets "in a confused state" for several hours before going home, where she told friends what had happened. They then

called the police.
A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "Tests showed she did not have an excessive level of alcohol in her bloodstream, so it is quite possible she may have been drugged. Toxicology tests are being done ... but we must keep an open mind."

Rohypnol, nicknamed Roofie, is a legal anaesthetic 10 times more powerful than Valium sometimes prescribed for back pain. It is manufactured by Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche and is not available through the NHS, although it is sold in private clinics.

Last month, a charity was set up, the Roofie Foundation, to combat misuse of the drug which is claimed to have been used on hundreds of women in the UK and the US, where it is now illegal.

To combat the threat, Roche is developing a new tablet form which turns a bright blue colour when dissolved in any liquid.

The man who bought the woman the drink is described as white, about 6 ft tall, and of medium build. Anyone with any information can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Video burglars put themselves in the frame

Burglars who videoed themselves committing more than 30 crimes were horrified when their films went on general release - to the police. Surprised officers discovered the tapes during a routine search at one of the men's homes in Glascote, Tamworth. Staffordshire.

The tapes, which were edited, subtitled and dubbed with music, showed burglaries, vandalism and breaking and en-

Detective Constable Nick Longman of Tamworth CID said the police found the tapes while they were investigating an unrelated matter and suspicions were aroused by the titles. "Some interest was expressed about the videos because

tried to keep them away from them," he said. "I've never come across anything like this before. They must have some equipment somewhere as they've done a proper job, but I don't think they'll be doing it again in a hurry.

of their titles and officers' suspicions were aroused when they

I think they've learnt their lesson." Mr Longman said the pair had filmed each other breaking into derelict and unfinished properties, smashing up buildings and committing burglaries.

The men, who have not been named, are in their 20s, and have been bailed while investigations continue.

Farm arsonist starts three fires in 24 hours

A farm arsonist is feared to have started three more blazes in the last 24 hours. Fifteen blazes have now been started since September on farms in south-east Cornwall - with damage estimated about £750,000.

Now there are fears that farmers may turn to vigilante action to catch the arsonist. Anthony Gibson, regional director of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday: "Farmers are so angry there is talk of organising shotgun patrols."

Keith Barrett, whose barn was set ablaze yesterday, said

that some farmers who found someone on their property "will act first and ask questions afterwards". Mr Barrett, who farms near Duloe, went on: "It could be

life at risk next time." The fire was only yards from occupied holiday cottages.

Half an hour earlier, a store and contents were destroyed by fire three miles away at Pelyut, near Looe. And on New Year's Day £50,000 worth of damage was caused in another barn fire at Kellow farm, near Looe, said the police.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

The owner of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is to meet with engineering experts to investigate ways of making the famous car more environmentally friendly.

Nearly 30 years after the film starring Dick Van Dyke and Sally Ann Howes made the vehicle famous, Pierre Picton plans to meet with engineers at Ford to discuss ways of converting the car, powered by a 3-litre Ford V6. to run on unleaded fuel. Speaking from his home in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Mr Picton said the car, which runs on four-star, could be converted in time for its 30th birthday celebrations later this year. He said: "When the engine's done she will be more environmentally friendly and that will be better for all the children that come to see her."

BBC pulls plug on Noel's House Party

Mystery surrounded the cancellation of the BBC's flagship entertainment show Noel's House Party yesterday when the plug was pulled on this evening's show just 24 hours before it was to be broadcast.

The BBC would only say it was "due to circumstances beyoud our control".

Television industry rumours immediately started to circulate that the programme had been cancelled after a dispute between Mr Edmonds and the BBC over the format and production of the show.

The BBC even refused to comment on whether the highrating show would be back next week or ever again.

Edmonds was not available for comment. Inquiries were referred back to the BBC.

Edmonds owns the format of the programme and is said to have full control. In November, he stepped in to replace the producer.

He was quoted as saying: "By my standards, the show was not as good as it should have

A source close to Edmonds said last night: "Noel is fine - he has not been sacked."

The BBC will repeat The Best of Noel's House Party instead. Tonight's programme had already been promoted along with the rest of the evening's schedule.

Edmonds is one of the BBC's most popular personalities and figured heavily in its Christmas schedule. His House Party regularly tops 10 million viewers and is one of the BBC's few shows that can compete with Cilla Black's Blind Date on ITV. Combined with Casualty, Noel's House Party has regularly helped the BBC to win the battle for audience share on Saturday nights.

If the show is gone for good. it will blow a major hole in its programming schedule and would make a tempting format for ITV.

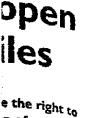
— Paul McCann Media Correspondent

anies open

p of personal

٠٢.

a Xiu⊤a arren 1



boss holds on Labour Editor, companies arly start on heir records or fegal action

n angraysas i day

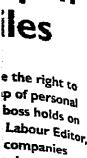






conds may () (areas) អាលាក្រាស ១ ១០១ ខ្មែរ ស្រាលាក្រាស ១ ១០១ ខ្មែរ an orçan kirili ili





po parpolitica di mili sstati. In turn, fra. ald do who had about ongs. ast retrain to the man * Weeks, Treating Data Proc. , $\frac{m}{\pi (B_0)}$ ally entance worker. acir person necession of the ic manage - and 3 which access among dumple....

man, and Akara ayan ista

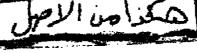












mont ea

As a bank, it's our job to safeguard precious commodities.

Few are as precious as your lunch hour, so we

treat every second as sacred. No-one in our branches, or for that matter our head office, takes their lunch when you want to

take yours. We're taking on 2000 extra service staff and installing an Express Till in our branches to handle

cash and cheque transactions more quickly. If you'd rather not set foot in a bank, you can use one of over 11,000 cash machines, including 684 in supermarkets.

If you use the 'Abbeylink' machines you can not only take out up to £500 cash, you can also make deposits and transfers, and get a mini-statement

showing your last 10 bank account transactions. Alternatively, you could forget money altogether and have your lunch. Then when you wake up in the middle of the night because you've forgotten to pay a bill, you can use our 24-hour automated telephone



banking service to sort it out.

Abbeylink machines not located at Abbey National branches will not accept deposits. The Abbey National Bank Account is subject to status. Charges apply for using some cash machines. Transfers can only be made between linked accounts. Bill payments and the Umbrella Couple are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London Number 11. Abbeylink machines not located at Abbey National branches will not accept deposits. The Abbey National and The Umbrella Couple are trademarks of Abbey National pic, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom, arranged using the automated telephone banking service, will be carried out during normal banking hours. Abbey National and The Umbrella Couple are trademarks of Abbey National pic, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Gales roar in at 70mph to bring a week of rain

Torrential rain and gales reaching 70mph battered western parts of Britain yesterday, unleashing havoc on travellers and householders.

South-west England, the North and Scotland were hardest-hit by the heavy winds. Among the casualties was a 22,000tonne tanker which was blown onto the rocks off the coast of Devon, sending trees crashing down and blacking out hundreds of homes.

Cross-Channel sailings between Newhaven and Dieppe were cancelled and there were several road accidents as motorists struggled to control their vehicles on rain-soaked roads. A mother from Cirencester. Gloucestershire, was being treated in hospital vesterday after the family's car was in collision with another vehicle during 70mph gales. Her parents and baby, who were also in the car, were killed in what police described as "a head-on collision in appalling weather".

The ferocious winds are expected to die down tomorrow, but forecasters warned

that rain and showers will continue across the country into next week. The only consolation is that the torrential rain has at last eased the threat of another severe drought in the South-east this year. Some areas have had more than one and a half inches of rain in just 24 hours and reservoirs in Kent and Sussex are almost full.

At the beginning of the autumn, the Environment Agency warned that one-anda-half times the normal amount of rainfall would be needed in Kent and East Sussex to stave off the threat of drought this year. A spokesman said yesterday: "That rainfall has now arrived. The aquifers - natural underground reservoirs - which over 70 per cent of the region relies upon for its water supplies have started at long last to recover." The agency also urged people not to dump their Christmas trees into water courses. "In the past trees thrown away in this fashion have caused blockages to grilles and other river structures which in turn has led to flooding," a spokesman said.





RACITY BESIDOX CAMBIL

2 programmes as 2009 99 Save (100 **£259.**99 AWAKS21, 1000 spm 1000 wash load SALE 11 programmes Nes 2349 23 . SAFE (90 £**269.s**e OOVER 40123, 1200 spin

**** 5349.59 pre-ducty \$449.50 \$40E (140 £309.59 #hatpoint WN635 1000 spn/11b resh load SEE Hall resh option was £149.99 sere 530 6319.99

HOUGHER & MONTHS BITTE BOSCH WESSTON

PERCUSY (**9 50 SAFE (120 : 379.89 Holpolet WMC3, 1100 spin

10 programmes vez (559.22 . . . SAVE (30 **: 479.**89 BOSCH WFEETO

19 programmes 19 1919:99 . SAVE (110 **: 499.9**9 WASHER DRYERS OOVER AITS

SMETIOU TOUS

Holpolat WD61P 500/1100 spin speed lood daser does 50 dry load normally 5559:30 SAVE E 10 :449.99 ZAMISSI WDJ 1294 Jelsystem

MES (SEP) 99 protosty (SPR) 25 SWEE(0) (579.89 TUMBLE DRYERS

Crusader 37317 6 db no lead 22 1777 99 1840317 1769 99 SAVE 150 £119.99 Hotooiat TL51P 11th dry had 2 drying temperatures was 5199.96 SAME SOUR 169.99 **Z/ARDSSI**. 10:524

11b dry bood SALE Reverse hardes action CTO : 199.09 ZALTOSSI TO 470, 118 dry bad SUE Requires no venting see 130 c279.99

DISHWASHERS
UP TO 20 IN STORE TERCITY BENDOX COWERS

ZASS 04/907 L'place serings SME A programmes was 1405-99 . SAME [130 : 299.96

BOSCH SCESSOR 12 place sellings 5 programmes wee (466)의 SWEE(70 **c 399.99**

UP TO 120 IN STORE

BUILT-IN COOKING Colonal Vinte Becing 600mm weblic Easy to steen OUTIN WALLSCAPE DE COMMENT OF SAME 120 £259.98
ALSO RAPLANE IN BROWN & OPEN
MATCHES MALANE IN BROWN & SAME AND FAMILY OF SAME A

FREE STANDING COOKERS 179.99 percent 189.99 percent 189.99

MORAT A 150 Ges
500mm midth High level grit
ves 1224 95
provinces 2224 95
provinces 2224 95
provinces 2224 95 THE COMET PRICE

The Cornet Price Provise guarantees fluit f you buy only product from us, then thin 14 days lived the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference. PLLS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE Ask in store for full details.

swe150 :199.9

:: Swei200 £**699**.99 Formal 633 Green Halogen SQL Entre Jun 100 1799 180 1769.99 LESURE Pangemester I til Green Gas. 1100mm moth/Double oven Asaktole vi Racong Green. Classi or Royal

幸 11638 SME 1300 11399 SAVE#£120 ON REFRIGERATION LIP TO 100 IN STORE

FRIDGES SAVEE 00 299.99 Lee: R-7D40F Fridge with loc dox swer40 c129.se

Hopping RESP SHE 55 CH 97 SHE 55 CH 9705 CH 97 S MONTHS MITTEREST FREE

788 E 1419 E SME 190 1329.59 FRIDGE FREEZERS

Windson ARTSO1 52015 out one capean, swell () : 189.se TRICITY BENDIX BCD836 249.99 SWE(100) (249.99 Biomberg CFR/201 Frost Free 9755 CET SAFE (10) £299.99

Highwayerd 5000 Cylinder 1407, watts power

Panasonic ACEUS Upopt

ma 124-27 prenozej (014-24 . SANE 1**25 189.29**

duson Don Jott Clanes
Dua Grane extralog BIG

SAVE & £140 ON MICROWAVES UP TO 40 IN STORE

... £69.99

es (1929)

Moslines 45

PROLINE SMI1

PROLINE STAY Bue Touch Control 750 works EC-06 auth capacity

Mehimater NC013/EF 4.6/3.5 Out arross capacity previously 1455 90 SAVE (20 c349.99 Hopeist Rice 6042 out 9000 (2000) 1000 (2000) SAVE (100 (399.89

4 MOTHS NOTHER THEE OFTICEN Scandinova FF57-50 6745 out gross capacity 420 (400 capacity 100 1469 as SAFE (30 1469 as NAMES AND THE OF DOME

BOSCH ACLUSTON From Free SALE is 3 out gross canacity 186 1579 99 1970 (\$2) 99 SWE (\$2) 1579.99 UPRIGHT FREEZERS Les U-RMO SIE STOUT POS GERRY SAVE FAD (169.89

785 029 99
penously 534 59, 136 99 A 279, 93
sale 554 99 . SAPE (A) 279, 93
A 30 ANN AND EN HOUTE OLT? Periento Touch Control 900 mezis EC-0-3 cu h capacin Thispoint FEED? SHE \$2 out goes county so \$249.99 and \$1249.99 and \$12 1299 percent 299.99 Motor capacy SIE SATTO COAST TOLER COMP AND GAT 1000 YATE ECOLD OLD LARDON SHE NEE CHANNE PROVINCE TO THE SATE OF THE S SHARP R-970A Touch Control Combination, 900 metrs 60 SME CHEST FREEZERS

PROLINE (F.SC. 38 CLB gross Carachy 1825 (1564) 19 Out (1920) SANE (30 t 249 se SAVE 50% ON SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
UP TO 250 IN STORE 126 (1965) 34E (1985) 1985 Scondinova (FRs) 8.2 cultigross capacity. ## 1279.99 precush 1299.99 . SAVE 180 : 209,99 KITCHEN APPLIANCES SAVE#50% ON VACUUM CLEANERS PROJECT STORY SHOWS TOWN TOWN THE STORY SHOWS THE STORY SHOWS AND SHOWS SHE STORY ST PROLINE MT4 4 Stor loader
Venetie provinces/Auto pop-up
vas 515-50 Engl

UP TO 55 IN STORE

PREE JUNES DYSON AUTOBIOGRAPHY
WITH MAY DYSON CYLANGER CLEANERST AQUA VAC Building 2-rs-1 1000 words power SUE Complete with tools SAFE 500/ was 299 99 Over 500/ £44.99 PRODER CTATE SANE 50% 14.99 TEFAL 38% HCCVER U3390 Uprgh #35119.97 SAFE 500/ £16.99 SAME E 65 E 74.99

EASY WAYS TO PAY With a Connect Timecord you can screed the cost of any purchase (subject to occeptorice). With no deposit and an terest free period, it really is the most

ameniani way to pay.

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER If you're looking for the lowest sale prices, check out the Comet Price

Index. It features the best selling top brand products - all available at the lowest sale prices guaranteed. You'll find it in the national newspapers every Saturday and on Teletext Channel 4 p425 every day.

LE NOW ON

Look for the highlighted Sale Vouchers in this advertisement and save even more. But hurry, these voucher offers are available for a limited period only.

morphy richards 4500

Mustable blade cogurd

JVC ROJEMB

" "CD Steen Radio Cessette R&MANUN dalla tung Roman - ""

PERSONAL CARE

Babylint 815 Trave Pro Hardres 1900 wats power Complex with diffuse

225 [13,99 promote 215.99 . . SWESS £12.99

JVC DONT save 50% £**79.99** Sultan groove was 5/399 . SAE 50% £**24**,99

Cod West Deep Fall Finer Agreement sounced SMLE West 1927, previously 167, 99, 129, 56. SMLE LOD 159, 99 AIWA NSY-STO 3 Dec Multipley CD Men 125 water RMS power output THE COST OF THE PROPERTY COST BaByfist! Protestant Hardiger Set 4 to 1 cumb attachment AIMS 74500 5 Dec Multipley PRIOSH E1529 SAVE 2 E11.99 u ::25 1343.99 out: 1229.99 SWEET 1329.99

OFFICIAL CORP SAME (10) 1349.36
E12-99 SAME (10) 1349.36
E SORT SAME OF PRIVATE
SORT SAME OF THE SAME

SAVE # £30 ON PORTABLE HIFT UP TO 80 IN STORE Femble control vas (109 % SAVE (20 £149.99 Panasonic RED77 NEW Cobra CD Steen Radio Cassille
Proof surround saund effect SNE
3 band digital tuner
225 £199.99 SNEE DO £169.99

₫ HI-FI SYSTEMS UP TO 90 IN STORE ee.**69**3 (11342 VENTURER COST COMOS 32 track programmable CD VENTURER COZZO DEC Muliplay CD Min AM/FM turer

arwatement ste 20 tack programmethe CD 10 c 139.99 JVE (U-T100 CD Micro 944 SONY MACCOD 3 Dec Municipy (2) Mari AIWA NSC SZ 3 DSC Malegay CD Min SWE 25 HINS power according 179.98 25 (1929) SANEIZU 179.98 JVC 00017 3 Doc Materiay (20 Min MLE was 0209.09 premary 0249.09 (SAME ED) 199.99 JVC 00017 0 Doc Materia, CO Min SME 70 Maries PRAS power SNE Output was \$279.90 provided; \$259.90 SAVE EDV \$249.89

Long play was 1229 99 provided 22 99 SAME 130 1219.99 Panasonic NVSDCO Vacous+110 PROVIDED STATE OF \$249.00 TOSHIBA VITI NICAN SLIED was 5005-99 one-loush 1279.00 1279.00 **Save** 120 TOSHIBA V857 NCAM Senso SONY MIC-ROP 2 Lec Wagney (D Min 100 sept. PMS poses output, see (372-96 2429 96, 2459 96, 2429 96, 2459 96, ** SWEET 160 1339.99

PERDEN (499 SE (499 SE 100 : 399 S POWER JANUARY SAME: 100 : 599.99 SAVESE200 ON TELEVISIONS

SAVE SE120 ON CAMCORDERS UP TO 80 IN STORE UP TO 25 IN STORE COMBIs GOMBIE

Goodman Turtup

In Tables Conta

Horn vide stren Videptur, **

1289 92 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1989 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99

1280 1980 99 MES \$449.99 In-stone £1399.99 SAVE (120 \$329.66 Panasonic MASS VISC 14x zoom/Wide angle lens Macro Booky SWEE 20 1379.55

Goodstans 2145TS 21" Fasters TV 51cm visible screen SI SHARP VLEECH VIEWCAITI **1999** EE [1999] PRIOSE SWE [20] : 189.99 TOSHIBA 2151/41TB LLU 927997 was [493239 987E130] **:469.s**9 SONY TREOHS
30 dots zon
H-F zono ves 1999 9 100 1599.ss © 279.99 prousy 2299.99. Swe [50] £**249.99** SONY KV217 21" Fested TV SNE 51cm vesteb school ves 5009 95 SNAE 130 **1299.59** JVC AVCITSZEA CIT NICAM Steep TV 48. CBD 99 WEL 2789 99 prevoudy 2779 99 SAME (30 £ 349.89

Panasonic 7/25 MD3 25" NICAM Stereo TV 79.77 (Medican Control SONY NYSXI 25" NCAM Steeps TV NICKIA ROD ME (479.99 DENOLEN (499.99 SAVE (5)) **: 449.99**

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY TIAM-SPM AND 9AM-8PM WEEKDAYS

COM SO COMO SO SAME LE COM SA 149 GE STA COMO SA 14 CRASH BANDICOOT 2 nor examplement Cross planform game ... NEW £39.09 TOMB RAIDER II -or Personal NEW :44.59 DIDDY KONG RACING SONY WSF FIFA 98: ROAD TO WORLD CUP

WIDE RANGE IN STORE

* save (70 e119.99

sazet60 £139.99

SHARP VOLCTI VIDEOPLIS-"

Water 1999 SWEET \$189.99

prevously (195.99 sale (199.99

Goodmans various NCAM Steres Votesphis+ **

MULTIMEDIA PCs **PUÑTSU** NARCA PIRRANAS 100 care manon 100 £899.ss SWE 100 £899.ss IBM Adma 500 P166 1561 SAVE (60 PACKAGE £549

ntel 166412 Person propieto est 1897 estratoga 1920 PALLO DE 1811 de 1816 Digiginas accelerato del 1816 PALLO E 20 gaptus accelerati valti 155 944 25 Subrotata vas 1559 E SIE previolal 11999 V SWE 1000 1999.99 3 NOTATA INTERESTREE OFFICIAL SECURE UNITS SINGIFIE E STREET

FUÑTSU POSS MAX ing (1994); Pergum process? with MACO* rectnology (1994); EDD RAM 1994); cache memory, 12/3o hard de-drug(19); Burkoper

1200 :1199.se :1199.se SHEMENS XXXII 2004.17 NOODORF ING 2004-2 Partum DONNE MA 180° HETCOL 23th 50 541/3202 rest de droi Dominis accessor 23.6 ten francisco n-store \$1.299.00 . **SAME** (170 **£1249**

OSMORTO ESHE VESTENN ZATIVON (* Estenn telum medico xologo esteno esteno (*) PRINTERS EPSON 400 Colour Inter Up to 4 pages per minute 720 : 770 dos print quality 20 : 179.99 183 : 1799.99 . SAME [20 : 179.99 183 : 1799.99 . SAME [20 : 1797.99

MANAGER SECTION AND PRODUCES OF Up to 5 pages per remute

FAXES & ANSWERING MACHINES

UP TO BO IN STORE VENTURER 625 Telephone #65 0155 CH 500 CH 5 E BELLECORE DISCOVERY

Paging facility
Digital noise reduction
In-stone C59.99 . . SAME £20 £39.65 Southwestern Bell FF890A Cordess Telephone with Digital Archening Machine SME Intercom facility/it memores 15 £84.99 ... SAVE 15 £84.99 BT / Dustal Condess, Telephone

130 charmets for ultra-clear calls SILE was (159.39) previously (179.39 . SAVE (3)) (149.39) AND OF TO 3 MEDITAL AT LICENS, CONTRACTOR

LANGUAGES FOR COLUMN SCHALE \$F110T

maic payrore sants remotes, was 1199.99 (1) 1909.99 rously 1219.99 SAFEAU 1109.99 SAVE #1/3 ON ACCESSORIES UP TO 450 IN STORE

MEDICAL ENGGR 12 hours of econding time 4 0 10.59 DEJA Too CD Storage Unit (Cernal 23)

MONEY BACK WARRANTY Our 5-Year Warnasty's ready special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if atter 5 years you don't make a dain. you can get your warranty maney back in tal. Askin store for tall details.

SAVE SE100 ON SATELLITE SYSTEMS

MORE IN STORE 60cm dish rormally £11990 . SAME £100 £49.95 AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS Products displayed with Midenote award winning products and Adenate

Advertisers stir up a war with BBC

A television ratings war is set to break out after powerful advertisers urged the ITV network to measure itself only against the BBC. Paul McConn, Media Correspondent, explains the background to the battle for our control

ITV has been issued with a warning from advertising agencies to boost its falling ratings by taking on the BBC rather increase the total number of than trying to compete with Channel 4 and Channel 5.

buttons.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the trade mean they pay more per viewbody for the advertising and me- er as ratings fall, and they have dia-buying industry, has asked ITV's new chief executive above the rate of inflation over Richard Evre to create a "benchmark" level of ITV viewing figures against the BBC.

When Mr Eyre joined ITV from Capital Radio in the autumn he asked advertisers to give him 100 days to devise a strategy for ITV's revival. He will be presenting that strategy later this month

While he is believed to be planning an assault on BBC1 in particular, Mr Eyre is thought to be unwilling to set a specific target for taking viewers likelihood of the BBC raising its game in response.

taking on the BBC by stealing broadcasters from the corporation, including Grant Mansfield, the man behind "real people" programme successes such as The Driving School and Airport. He has also hired David

their popular Fantasy Football. Advertisers are pressing for the assault on the BBC because ITV's share of viewing has fallen rapidly in the last five years

to under 34 per cent as satellite and cable channels have stolen viewers. While ITV has been slipping the BBC has managed to hold onto its share of about 41 per cent when both BBC 1 and BBC 2 are added together. The IPA is worried that ITV may try to bolster its audience

share by taking viewers from Channel 4 and Channel 5 rather than the BBC. They are against this because it does nothing to viewers who see their adverts. Advertisers pay for airtime on

ITV in a bizarre way that can seen their media costs rise well the last three years. Mr Eyre was appointed by

ITV and given sweeping executive powers following criticism from advertisers that the network's federal system meant big players such as Carlton, Granada and United News & Media were competing more with each other than with external rivals.

As competition from new broadcasters has eaten into their audience share commercial broadcasters have become from the BBC because of the increasingly angry about what they see as the popularisation of the BBC's schedules. ITV Mr Eyre has prepared for and some of its advertisers have criticised the BBC for winning a number of ideas and senior a renewal of its Charter by promising distinct programming not seen on other channels. Instead, they argue, the BBC is competing directly with commercial channels with massmarket soap operas, games Baddiel and Frank Skinner to shows and fly on the wall real present a World Cup version of people" television programmes.

Street crime wave blamed on truants

beries and a third of car thefts name and address properly. A and burglaries in London are further 48 per cent could not committed by truants, it write their name and address emerged yesterday. Now Tony Blair is to launch

ter being shown evidence of a youngsters' crime wave. Studies have revealed that the culprits are mainly boys who

lose interest in lessons because of poor literacy skills. The Prime Minister has ordered the Downing Street social through interviews with ofexclusion unit - set up last month to devise new solutions to the

problems of poverty - to think up new ways to tackle truancy. Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, told the unit that most of the offences took place during school hours, according to reports.

The unit was also shown figures from the Basic Skills Agency which reveal low educational standards among offenders aged 17-25. Interviews with 500 such offenders showed

Forty per cent of all street rob- 21 per cent could not write their and give more than two pieces of information about thema campaign against truants af-selves without making mistakes.

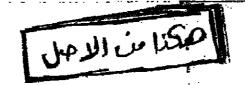
About half had difficulty telling the time and giving the days of the week or the months of the year in the right order. Only 30 per cent could fill in a job application form.

The survey was carried out fenders from towns and rural areas in Shropshire.

About 90 per cent said they had been truants at some stage during their school career and 64 per cent said they were habitual truants, absent for a day or more a week soon after starting secondary school.

The average age when truanting started was 12 to 13, and 55 per cent said they committed crimes while absent from the classroom.

Trevor Phillips, page 15



مكنامن الامل

JUNION

ers War

graph: Richard Austin

pular Fantas, Form artisers are pressing and on the BBC hard and in persons and persons and persons and artisers are artisers. The BBC has many artisers are artisers and artisers are artisers in a fine in does not interest and in a person and in a person

Egre was appointed all given successing an advertises that a dedicate when a few and the control was an advertise and the control was a such as few and the control was a such as few and the control was a successing an area of the control was a few and the control was a few and

Brach Comments of the Comments

wave ruants

Manual Property of the Propert



SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE RIDE
WITH THE NEW TOYOTA AVENSIS.

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA
TELEPHONE 0800 777 555 www.avensis.co.uk

THE NEW TOYOTA AVENSIS FROM £13,845 TO £20,635 ON THE ROAD.



LE Minnum depost Uthon bars over CLOCO. Whiten tredi quomions assista Dest FORK Neybook Avenue, Hernel Hemphanes, Hernel Hemphanes (Applications, 1 the 2 or over J

www.dixons.co.uk

chance

Namibia's b

oppression

 $\tau_{\mu_{i_1, \dots, i_r}}$

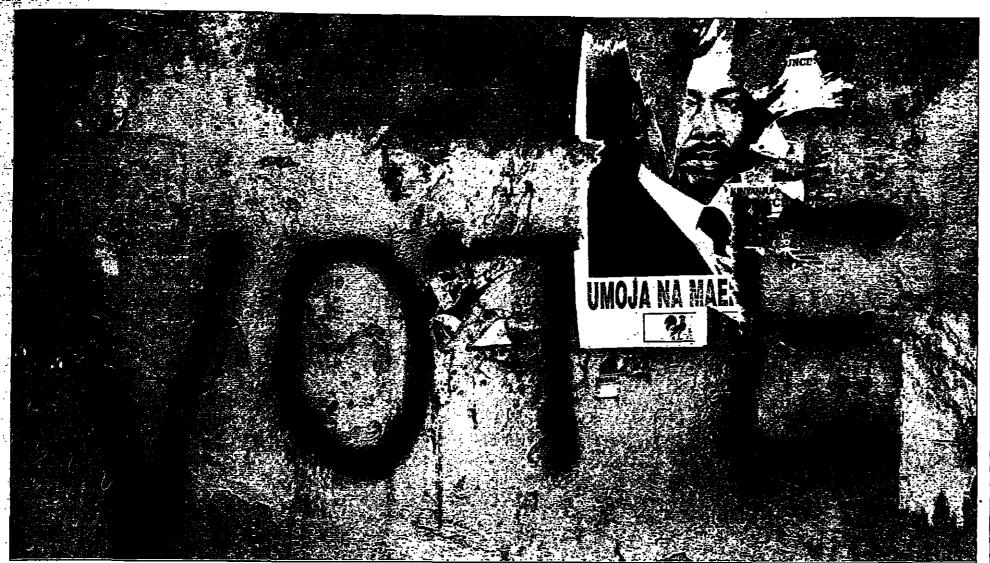
Sec.

F-10-11

17" N 17":

مكنان الاحل

9/AFRICA



Writing on the wall: Election graffiti and a peeling poster for Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi yesterday. President Moi iss favourite to win

Kaunda's lawyers demand speedy trial or release

Lawyers for the former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda, accused of fomenting a failed coup in October, yesterday demanded in a Lusaka court for an easing of his house arrest and a speedy trial, or his release.

Britam, meanwhile, cancelled the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd's trip to Zambia to protest against the government's actions. "It would be wrong for me to visit so long as Mr Kaunda remains in custody but uncharged, and in the absence of a commitment from the Zambian authorities that I will be able to see him," Mr Lloyd said.

At the court, Mr Kaunda, 73, said the government, not he, was on trial and urged his backers not to be bitter. By speaking, he may have technically violated the terms of his house arrest, which forbid him from participating in political activities and speaking to the media. — AP, Lusaka

Burundi deaths rise to 284

Troops were still combing the area around Burundi's Bujumbura airport yesterday as the death toll in a bloody rebel attack on Thursday rose to at least 284.

Army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Mamert Sinarinzi said that the dead included 180 civilians, 100 rebels and four Burundi army soldiers. An estimated 1,000 Hutu rebels launched the dawn attack near the village of Rukaramu, a few kilometres north of Bujumbura, the most daring assault on the Burundi capital since military ruler Pierre Buyova seized power in an army coup in July 1996.

The attackers appeared to be part of a broader alliance of Burundian and Rwandan Hutu rebel groups, but most of the dead were former Rwandan army soldiers, Lt-Col Sinar-

Tribal rifts wreck Kenya's chance to throw out Moi

Daniel arap Moi appears to have the achieved the victory he sought in Kenya's elections. But Ed O'Loughlin in Nairobi asks whether this will simply deepen the crisis in the country.

Amid all the sound and fury of this week's elections in Kenya one remarkable story of human achievement has gone almost

On Tuesday-it was announced that Humphrey Ochuo Makasembo, a candidate for the Kenyan democracy. National Development Party, had trounced his four rivals to Makasembo it was a triumph over the greatest of handicaps: tional Development Party. three weeks before the polls opened on Monday, he died.

SALE PROCE

Clai souther products it apply take the torn to clain

dential, parliamentary and civic elections - including the ruling Kenyan African National Union -were claiming to be the victims of impersonation, ballot-stuffing, vote-buying and intimidation. All alleged that the electoral commission's gross bungling, which caused many polling stations to open late or not at all on Monday, was part of an anti-democratic conspiracy against them.

The two leading opposition figures, Raila Odinga and fellow presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki, yesterday rejected the preliminary results which dead donkey in Mr Makasem- materialised. Early figures put showed Mr Moi would be swept bo's stead it too would have Mrs Ngilu a poor fifth, with back into power, and called for a new poll within 21 days.

With counting continuing yesterday, unofficial figures from 166 of the 210 constituencies showed President Moi comfortably leading his nearest rival, Democratic Party candidate Mr Kibaki, by 1,974,871 votes to 1,633,597. His share of the vote was 39.2 per cent - a surprise increase on his 36 per cent in 1992.

But even if the elections were really free and fair, the late ley, stronghold of President Mr Makasembo's story shows that there are still deep flaws in

mously topped the poll be- 1 per cent in Central. Early figwin the Uruba ward seat on cause his name appeared on the ures from this year's poll show Migori town council. For Mr ballot paper beside the tractor the same massive regional imsymbol of Mr Odinga's Na-

the Luo tribe, the second largest

MYSTERY DISEASE KILLS 250

still being tested for Rift Valley fever.

killed 250 people in the flood-stricken north-east.

Ten days after it was first reported, health authorities in Kenya

are still struggling to identify a mysterious epidemic which has

reported to have died in recent days. The Kenyan representative of the World Health Organisation, Dr Douglas Klaucke, said

the authorities now believe the disease could be caused by an-

thrax, a bacterium tested by several countries - including Britain

- for use in germ warfare. But he stressed that the samples were

Symptoms include fever, headaches and haemorrhaging from body orifices, symptoms identified in thousands of livestock also

come in at a canter. In fact the

NDP took every seat in Migori. Ethnic and regional considerations dominate Kenyan polities to the exclusion of virtually everything else.

In the 1992 election, for example. candidates Kenneth Matiba and Mwai Kibaki, both members of Kenya's largest tribe, the Kikuyu, won 95 per cent of the votes in the Kikuyudominated Central Province, but only 23 per cent in Rift Val-Moi's Kalenjin tribal alliance. Raila Odinga won 75 per cent of the vote in his Luo-domi-Mr Makasembo posthu- nated Nyanza province but only

This year there was some ex-Mr Odinga is a member of citement when Charity Ngilu became the first woman to make Mr Makasembo's victory in Kenya, and like all major a serious bid for the presidency. from the grave was by no means Kenyan parties, his NDP is re- As a member of the small Kamthe only strange thing about this ally little more than an ethnic ba tribe it was felt she might win week's elections. By the time cancus. Migori is in the Luo votes from women of all ethpolls closed all the main parties heartland of Nyanza province. nicities and from men sick of the contesting the parallel presi- Had the NDP nominated a tribal deadlock. This has not

most of her votes coming from her native Eastern province.

Her main significance now is as a potential spoiler. To be reelected Mr Moi needs to win 25 per cent of the vote in five of Kenya's eight provinces and Mrs Ngilu's candidacy threatens to deprive him of a substantial block of the Kamba vote in one of the five provinces which he won last time. Unofficial figures suggest that he may reach the target in seven provinces - a result which the opposition is certain to reject as fraudulent.

For the past 19 years Mr Moi's great skill as a ruler has been to play off the three largest tribes - the Kikuyu. Luo and Luhya - against each other while maintaining the support of the smaller peoples.

Although most members of the larger tribes now detest Mr Moi's government for its corruption and misrule, they still seem unable to unite to get rid of him. In 1992, despite claims of massive Kanu vote-buying and suggestions of serious irregularities. Mr Moi won only 36 per cent of the vote but still won easily.

This time around the opposition vote is split amongst 14 presidential candidates and 22 would-be parliamentary parties.

With political tensions running high across the country and all sides condemning the election as flawed and rigged. Kenva's battered reputation as East Africa's richest and most stable country seems destined to suffer a further blow. Mr Makasembo, wherever he is now, may feel he is better off out of it.

DEBENHAMS

Further reductions

Many more womenswear lines now

our original price

Including famous Brands and Designer lines*

PLUS other half price offers throughout the store



Stores open Sunday: Aberdeen, Bedford, Belfast, Bolton, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Browns of Chester, Colchester, Crawley, Croydon, Dublin, Dudley, Dundee, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Exceet, Folkeston, asgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Harrow, Hourslow, Hull, Ipswich, Lakeside Thurrock, White Rose Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Luton, Manchester, Meade Newbury, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Oxford Street, Plymouth, Preston, Reading, Romford, Salisbury, Southampton, Southend, Southpour Southsea, Staines, Stirling, Stockport, Swansea, Swindon, Taunton, Telford, Wimbledon, Winchester.

*Designer lines available in selected stores only, Stock subject to availability.

Namibia's bushmen threatened with oppression by black government

The past couple of centuries have not been kind to the Kxoespeaking San, or 'bushmen', of north-eastern Namibia. Ed O'Loughlin found out why their problems have got worse since the country became independent.

The descendants of free-ranging hunter gatherers, Namibia's remaining 4,000 Kxoe now live in sprawling resettlement camps inside the West Caprivi game reserve, the shrivelled heart of their traditional hunt-

No longer able to hunt or wander in the old manner, they have fallen prey to all the predictable 20th-century social scourges unemployment, alcoholism, malnutrition, violent crime and disease, including a rapidly-worsening epidemic of HIV. Yet what preoccupies them most at present is not these modern afflictions, but a new threat from an old enemy.

The powerful chief of a neighbouring Bantu-speaking tribe, which once enslaved the Kxoe, is claiming that they are still his vassals and that the land they currently occupy is his. And the democratically elected government of the South West Africa

wrested independence from apartheid South Africa in 1989, seems to be supporting the chief's feudal claim.

At the centre of the dispute is a small tourist campsite built by the Kxoe on the years, illegally grazing cattle and burning Okavango River's Popa Falls to raise funds for development. Constructed at the beginning of this year with the help of Westem donors and local development agencies, the campsite was condemned from the outset by Chief Erwin Mbambo, leader of the neighbouring Mbukushu tribe, on the grounds that his permission had not been

The Kxoe ignored him, saying the along the Angolan border. Mbukushu chiefs had no jurisdiction east of the Okavango River. But then in May, the government abruptly announced that the camp would have to go: the prison ministry, it said, needed the stretch of scenic riverbank along the east of the falls to expand a neighbouring penal farm.

Since then the Kxoes' campsite has become a cause célèbre for Namibian and environmental and social activists and a rallying point for the divided and demoralised Kxoe people.

They claim that key figures within the government are really acting at the behest of the Mbukushu chief, Erwin Mbambo, a who began arriving there 2000 years ago.

people's Organisation (Swapo), which former Swapo exile with close ties to senior government leaders. If not, they ask, why is the government ignoring the hundreds of Mbukushu peasants who have settled within the reserve over the past two

off bush for planting? Many Kxoe also believe that elements within Swapo are trying to punish them for taking the wrong side in the Namihian liberation struggle. Between 1975 and 1989. the South African army used attractive wages and racial propaganda to persuade thousands of "Bushman" soldiers to serve as trackers and reconnaissance troops

They say to us, 'We remember you when you were killing us." said Kipi George, elected chief of the Caprivi Kxoe. Every tribal group in Namibia has members who fought against Swapo, but we are the only ones who are being blamed."

For many San, apartheid was not a black and white matter. South Africa's own San were wiped out by two centuries of white genocide - Bushmen were hunted for trophies up until the beginning of this century - but elsewhere in southern Africa many aboriginal San found a more immediate threat in the well-organised Bantu larmers

Rats tested for killer bird flu after eating dumped poultry

has started testing dogs, cats and rats in Hong Kong to find out whether the mysterious bird flu has spread to other animals.

The tests were revealed as the Hong Kong government came under increasing fire for its handling of the poultry cull which destroyed 1.4 million chickens, geese, ducks, pigeons and quail.

The tests on other animals were ordered after it became apparent that the authorities had left large bags of dead chickens in various places where they were seized and eaten by dogs, cats and rats.

Television pictures of dead chickens being carried away by scavenging dogs have added to a mood of public unease about the handling of the slaughter. It was supposed to take 24 hours but ended up lasting four days. Even after it was supposed to the slaughter might have been

poultry farms waiting for offi- ration or evaluation therefore cials to complete their task.

While the cull was underway. government officials were seen supervising the killing of poultry in the markets wearing full protective clothing, but those actually killing the birds were doing so with bare hands, surrounded by blood and large numbers of scared birds.

The aim was to try and cut off the flu at its source. The death toll from the H5N1 virus has now reached 4 out of 15 confirmed and 6 suspected cases.

Yesterday the Executive Council, or cabinet of the Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, met in emergency session to discuss the bird flu crisis. Beforehand one of the councillors, Tam Yiu-chung, publicly criticised the government's handling of the cull. He said decisions over

The World Health Organisation be over there were reports of made with undue haste. "Prepawas not sufficient," he said.

After the meeting Mr Tung admitted that there had been 'inadequacies' in the government's actions and said "improvements need to be made". He promised that this would be "sorted out some time today".

Researchers have been unable to establish how a strain of flu previously only found in poultry is transmitted to humans. A bigger concern is whether the virus can be transmitted between humans.

Experts from the WHO believe the risks of human to human transmission are minimal because the virus, although potentially lethal once it takes root in victims, has weak powers of transmission. However, the virus may be mutating and



Cuban exile lays down law on US entry

A Cuban baseball star who was given special clearance to enter the United States after escaping to the Bahamas is refusing to take up the offer until his fellow passengers are also allowed into the US.

Orlando Hernandez, whose baseball-star brother, Livan, found fame and fortune in the US after defecting from Cuba two years ago, was one of eight passengers on a small boat picked up by US coastguards in Bahamas waters this week. Within 36 hours, he, his girlfriend and another baseball player were told they could enter the US. The other five were: detained pending repatriation to Cuba.

The case highlights the use of discretion in US asylum policy towards Cubans and the exceptions made for sporting and entertainment figures.

--- Mary Dejevsky

Sonia brings Gandhi magic to India poll

The decision by Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi's widow, to campaign for the Congress Party has galvanised India's latest general election, writes Peter Popham in Delhi. But the outcome of the voting is almost certain

to be another coalition.

The world's biggest democracy will begin voting in its general election on 16 February, the election commissioners in Delhi announced. So vast is the area that polling in India's 543 constituencies will take place over local analyst. "After 30 years of four separate days, finishing living here her Hindi is still awon 7 March, and counting will begin two days after that.

It is less than two years since Indians last voted in a gov- of people read newspapers ernment, and the result was so inconclusive that there have thousands of years and which since been three prime ministers, the first of whom held power for only 13 days.

But the coming election is shaping up to have at least last one, thanks to Sonia Gandhi's decision last week to campaign on behalf of Congress.

As the only politically active member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which has governed India for most of its first 50 years, her decision immediately changed the complexion of the contest. Until then the Hindu nationalist BJP, long the "fascist" or "communalist" bogeyman of Indian politics, seemed to be heading for its first real breakthrough.

In 1996 the BJP won 177 seats, more than any other partv and 42 more than Congress but with its high-minded regional or caste parties, it found itself some 70 seats short of a gued he would pose a serious majority.

In recent months it has jetentered the same horse-trading as the other parties. As a result it has spread tentacles into the east and south where previously the BJP's message of Hinduism, to be gone for good.

Mother India and economic reform meant little.

Then on New Year's Eve the most famous enigma of Indian politics, Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia, finally played her hand, and changed everything.

Although she has lived in India for 30 years, she has never played any active part in politics, and the assassinations of her husband and her mother-inlaw, Indira, make her security on the stump a fearful problem. She is, of course, Italian by birth and upbringing. Yet few people doubt her participation will improve Congress's prospects.

"She was never created by God to win elections," said one ful. But this is an electorate where every second person is illiterate, where only a fraction which has worshipped idols for has been dominated by Congress for decades. Of course she will make a difference."

Much may depend on bow many constituencies she is able more human interest than the to visit and how many voters are going to be moved by having seen the living legend. Congress's problem has been that its president, the octogenarian Sitaram Kesri, lacks popular appeal, and the party is essentially leaderless. In a recent opinion poll, Mrs Gandhi was the second choice for prime minister, behind the BJP incumbent Atal-Bihari Vajpayee.

Her inexperience makes it unlikely that she would be thrust into such a role. She was yesterday making supportive noises about Dr Manmohan Singh, an economist and a pop-ular finance minister who drove through the reforms of 1991 that fusal to enter alliances with re- transformed the country's economic prospects. A Sikh, it is ar-



MI

challenge to Mr Vajpayee. The one thing almost certain, tisoned its claim to purity and however, is that there will be another coalition. With more than one-third of voters supporting minority parties, the days of . national party dominance seem

Roman town unearthed

Archaeologists have unearthed the ruins of a Roman town built during Emperor Nero's reign in southern Egypt, an antiquities official said yesterday.

A four-year excavation by Canadian and Egyptian archaeologists has revealed two-storey homes, said Mohammed el-Saghir, the director-general for southern Egyptian antiquities. The town lies in an area called Esment el-Kharab. near the Dakida Oasis, 550km (341 miles) south-west of Cairo, Mr el-Saghir added. The buildings were "in good condition", Mr el-Saghir added. The buntings were measured AD.

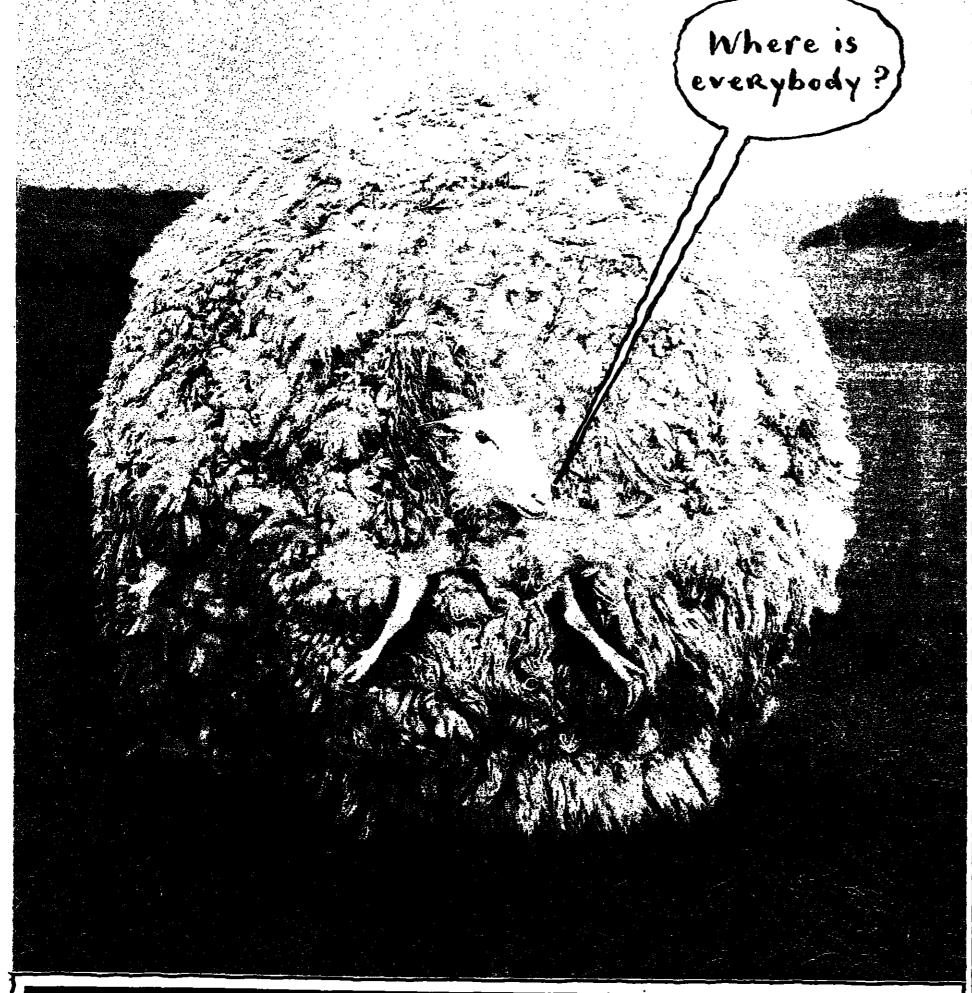
despite having been erected in the first century AD.

— AP, Cairo

Emu warning for Germans

An economics professor preparing a court bid to delay the launch of Europe's single currency warned Germans yesterday that they had most to lose from monetary union.

"Germany would have to fear the most negative consequences," Wilhelm Hankel, of Frankfurt university, told Saar radio, adding that the chances were high that the new currency, the euro, would be unstable. Mr Hankel and three other academics are preparing to lodge a complaint against Emu with the Federal Constitutional Court, the highest in Germany, in a bid to delay the launch due on 1 January 1999. - Reuters, Bonn



World Offers.

Flight prices from

Athens £149 rtn Brussels £79 rtn Cologne £105 rtn

Fares are return from London and subject to availability. Travel periods may vary. Includes taxes correct at time of going to press. Athens ~ fare £125/tax £24, Brussels - fare £60/tax £19, Cologne - fare £88/tax £17. For details see HTV Teletext p.380, your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

For thousands of World Offers call us now on 0345 222111 WORLD OFFERS Book by 28th January '98

BRITISH AIRWAYS The world's favourite airline

→ 🔮 🗨

In purst

Three years and Jason Redeling Three year of the new Best Jazz

State Thorn Now he's harte.

Philips - mees the man

belied the press release.

Seasonal rec

11/ARTS

n exile own law 5 entry

seball star who was d clearance to enter States after escapinhamus is refusing he offer until his fel ers are also allowed

Hernandez whose ar brother, Livan and fortune in the sfecting from Cuba go, was one of eight on a small hoat * US coasiguards in waters this heek hours, he, his girl. another baseball s told they could en-The other five were ending repatriation

z highlights the use m in US assium pols Cubans and the exade for sporting and reni ligures.

nagic

eant litt!e. an New Year's Every ous enigma of legtojiv Gandhi 🔻 🚎 ally played her he ged everything igh the his in the i **years**, alto hexage y active participals the assassinating of ക്ഷ് അധിന്റെ സംവ m, make but some នួចពួក ដែលប៉ុន្តែ 🗀 🖼 🗔 garre, Italian bah inging. William to custainui com RELEASE PROPERTY was never created to an elections." said to Section of Section the Hadisənia this is an electron abeta of his field. te condition-paren

AMERICAN LOSS

te of scales included a se minimiza e Cel armae. Of career នាការពីនៃនៅ និក emilian diputation metalise by an old refer the Daniel he made to the print in a Helphise provinces i, the strain-Mark Lands Francisco Hite paid . N. 44 ca Indiana de des Gandin arter of the first of ABIF OF THE ST

32.5 ENVIOLENT TWO the state of 1000 00 0000 BE BIGH HETT and $\widehat{\Gamma}$, $\widehat{V}^{(1)}$ = $\widehat{\sigma}$ Service of the servic $\underline{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{p}) : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n \times n \times n \times n}$ $g(-\frac{1}{2}) \leq (1-\frac{1}{2})^{2}$ 48.00 58.00 المراجعة المنطور to Mr $\Sigma^{-\infty}$ or

EMBITS - F. SACT

 $(\underline{t}_{2,3,1},\underline{W},\underline{\sigma}_{2,3,1},\underline{\tau})^{\frac{1}{2}}$

of tensors seed 2

production of the second

ration the m

500

thed $\sqrt{n} d \geq S_{\rm c} / \log^2$ Mark Services

THE NAME OF THE OWNER, of France el conf Germans Carrie 1992

man the second Marie P. MAN DE TO A CONTRACTOR de Heek Court Line the calls

April 1

In pursuit of the perfect moment

Three years ago Jason Rebello, rising star of the new Brit Jazz scene, quit playing to become a Buddhist monk. Now he's back.

Phil Johnson meets the man behind the press release.

It's such a good story, it seems a shame to let mere facts get in the way. A brilliant and handsome young pianist at the top of his career suddenly packs it all in to go off to a Buddhist monastery in search of the meaning of life. After experiencing the stern discipline of monastic routine, he slowly finds himself once again and realises that his true gift is to make people happy through his music. He therefore hids a sad farewell to his fellow monks and leaves the monastery to play a fabulous comeback concert at the Royal Festival Hall, where amid the cheers and the ovations he meets his old flame backstage. They embrace passionately before he nips out front again for an encore, probably a bit of Rachmaninov. The pianist could be played by Brad Pitt, the monastery could be in Tibet, and Helena Bonham Carter could supply the love interest.

Well, it's nearly true. Jason Rebello is the pianist, and he is young, brilliant and handsome. He is also playing the South Bank tonight, although it's really the tiny Purcell Room and not the larger RFH (but this is British jazz.

The performance is something of a comeback, too, even if it's not in fact the first time he's stroked the ivories in public since he quit the cloister. And the monastery? Yep, there is one, but it's in Bradford-on-Avon, just outside Bath, rather than atop the Himalayas. lason hasn't exactly left it either, although he's no longer a full-time monk. In fact he was only there for a couple of months, two years ago, but be still lives within sight of the place and goes there regularly to meditate. And finally - sorry, Brad - the Buddhism wasn't an overnight conversion; Rebello had been easing himself into it for years.

"I'm probably not cut out for a meditative life," Rebello says, a little embarrassed at the rather enthusiastic spin the promoter of tonight's concert has put on the Buddhist angle. "It's a tough. thing to do, to become a monk. Being really honest, leaving the monastery came down to my reluctance to give up my own way of life. I was just too frightened to do that, and I didn't have the necessary detachment. You get up at 5.45am and do five hours of meditation a day, as well as lots of work, and coming from the lifestyle I was leading, it was the complete opposite. I intended to go for a few years but in the end it was only a few months because it became too difficult."

Rebello's story contains the seeds of yet another potent myth, in which his retreat (such as it was) can be seen



Rebello without a cause? 'When there's no me, there's no problem!'

Photograph: Rogan Coles Fiedfern

British jazz revival of the late Eighties and early Nineties, of which he was first a beneficiary and then a casualty. Following the success of Courtney Pine and label in 1989; his début album, .4 American saxophonist Wavne Shorter. Two further albums followed before his as a response to the waning of the brief contract, like those of Pine and Shep-

pard, was dissolved when sales did not meet expectations. But this version of events is probably no nearer the truth than the first. Just before his decision Andy Sheppard for Island Records, to retire, Rebello had achieved his Rebello was signed to BMG's Novus greatest fame so far, when he appeared as a TV presenter for BBC2's pop-Clearer View, was produced by the star culture series Arrageous, a role he looked quite comfortable with

Still only 28 years old, Rebello thinks that it may have been his pre-

cociously early success, as much as anything else, that led to his gradual disillusionment with music.

"I was trying to find a new meaning because I was getting increasingly dissatisfied with the way things were going," he says, "Sometimes, when your dreams are fulfilled early, you feel. Is that all there is? You work hard and get success, which is what you hoped for, but your idea of what it will actually is, and as a consequence you feel let down. You think, 'Yes, if I'm successful, I'll be really happy and secure', but it doesn't really work like The interest in Buddhism had

be like is much more pleasant than it

been growing steadily ever since his professional career took off after he left the Guildhall School of Music in London in 1986. "I think what attracted me is that it's very logical -Buddhism can appeal to Westerners because they have this logical bent. You're not asked to believe things blindly; you're testing them out, almost like you're a scientist - you're trying to find out what is real."

For a jazz musician, the attraction of a philosophy that prizes the perfect moment above all else is very powerful, and many instrumentalists have compared the act of improvising to a kind of enlightened state. Sonny Rollins has talked about how he knows he is playing at his best if, in the midst of a solo, he loses himself in the music to the point where the saxophone seems to be playing him rather than the other way round. "In a sense, it's the self that impedes everything you do," Rebello says. "You're constantly trying to give up the idea that you're calling the shots. When you're playing, the idea of self is what makes it go wrong. When there's no me, there's no problem!"

Rebello's own style as a pianist doesn't, at least on the surface, suggest the intervention of any mystical force - unlike, say, the keyboard meditations of Keith Jarrett, a Gurdjieff man, or Bheki Mseleku, who used to accompany Krishna devotees at a shrine in Balham. By contrast, Rebello is one of the most worldly-sounding of players, elegant and epigrammatic in the manner of Errol Garner or the great Art Tatum, and with an ear alert to the rhythms of funk and soul.

Rebello's pursuit of the perfect moment of improvisation is also being paralleled by a renewed interest in composition, and what could be the beginnings of a classical career. On Friday, a concert in the Park Lane Group's annual "Young Artists New Year Series" (also, as it happens, at the SBC's Purcell Room) features an arrangement Rebello has made for two pianos. "The piece is written so that it should sound like two jazz pianists improvising, almost like taping them and then writing it out," he says. Tonight's jazz concert features both a solo set, and a trio with bassist Wayne Batchelor and drummer Darren Beckett, but Rebello denies the press release's assertion that he will be playing Juzz Meditation, described as "a piece he wrote in his head when meditating in the monastery". "No." he laughs. "I'm just playing some tunes," It looks as if Rachmaninov, Brad Pitt and Tibet will have to wait a little longer.

8pm tonight, Purcell Room, SBC, London SE1 (0171-960 4242)



Ice is nice - but the skate is great

Torvill and Dean Wembley Arena

There were cushions for rent at Wembley Arena on Tuesday for the London première of Torvill and Dean's Ice Adventures, but everyone who felt the need had come with their own - plus a nice warm rug for their knees. No disrespect to the audience, but it would be a great place to shift a few Saga holiday brochures. The bulk of the capacity crowd seemed to be long-established fans and their eager applause certainly warmed things up.

Ice Adventures is a series of unconnected episodes set in a railway station, a tropical fish tank, a winter sports competition and a stylish New Year's Eve party. These changes of scene are contrived via a superb lighting design, by Durham Marenghi, which projects various motifs - lug- artists rather than acrobats. gage labels, national flags, parquet blocks - on to the Arena floor. (Marenghi's wildly cosmopolitan CV includes the Hong Kong hand-

over ceremony.) The main scenes are intercut with tedious bits of clowning from two Arctic hunters jacket, partners with apparent and a yeti-like object in fun fur. I don't suppose anyone ever lost money by underestimating the tastes of Ice Spectacular fans, but the constant force-feeding of comic commonplace lyrics of the interludes suggests that some- accompanying ballads with one (presumably Mr Bean co- the bittersweet world-weariwriter Robin Driscoll, who ness you see in a shrug of Sinacollaborated on Ice Advent- tra's shoulder. Pair skating ures) has little faith in the audience's attention span.

This refusal to let the ice dance stand alone stems from a problem encountered by any sporting skater who retires to a life of ice shows: Olympic routines are exhausting. Torvill and Dean are seldom off the ice for long, but their need for breaks has spun this

show out to a bum-numbing two-and-a-half hours.

Of the interminable frozen fillings, the most memorable were Richard Swenning, and the Canadian couple Christine and Dion Beleznay - who seem to specialise in the stunt work often frowned upon in amateur competition. Their party tricks include the "headbanger" - whereby the man swings his partner round by the ankles so that her nose shaves the ice - and a remarkable lift in which he raises her horizontal body over his head with one hand while spinning at top speed. Of all the guest stars, the Beleznays seemed to have the most chemistry between them.

Torvill and Dean's way of inhabiting the music and their total concentration on each other rather than the spotlight have always marked them as Here they occupy a feature spot in each section, but pace themselves carefully for the party finale. "Take Five" is danced with the painstaking insouciance that characterises their work. Dean, louche and raffish in a white dinner effortlessness. The routine seamlessly incorporates the fancy stuff that audiences so adore with more densely textured moments that colour the can't be improvised: the trick is to make it look that way.

To Sun, Wembley Arena (0181-900 1234): 13-17 Jan Manchester Nyrex Arena (0161-930 8000); 30-24 Jan Newcastle Arena (0191-401 8000); 27-31 Jan Sheffield Arena (0114 256 5656)

Louise Levene

Seasonal redemption via the satsuma bowl

TELEVISION



REVIEWED BY **THOMAS** SUTCLIFFE

The award for the least emollient moments of the last few days goes to the opening scenes of Mothertime (Sunday, BBC2) - a shrewdly acidic take on family life that began with an alcoholic mother belting her teenage daughter and emptying catch ber vomit.

This genuinely painful scene - in which childhood hopes for what Christmas might deliver bumped hard against adult failings - made you brace yourself for something remedial, something sour and harsh, as an emetic for the sugar overdose which Christmas television conventionally delivers. What followed, though, was far more hopeful in tone, a tale of rescue and redemption.

Vanessa, the oldest child of four, decides to take matters in hand after her mother collapses in a sozzled heap. With Daddy staying at his girifriend's flat and the nanny off to Denmark for the holidays, the way custody; so the children lock ending - mother restored to

the satsuma bowl over the floor their mother in the basement so that she could use it to sauna and put her on a diet of compulsory cold turkey.

Despite that opening, Mothertime couldn't exactly be described as gritty in its realism the sauna included the somewhat unusual design feature of a very large letterbox, to get round the problem of how the children feed their prisoner, and the plot was aided by Vanessa's handy ability to do a perfect imitation of her mother's voice, good enough to fool her exhusband and other curious grown-ups.

But even though it poured sawdust into the gearbox to mask unsettling rattles, Mothertime conveyed some real truths - about childhood disillusionment and parental failis clear for a spot of protective ure. The mitigated happy

loving sobriety but father dispossessed of his daughter's unquestioning adoration - left you feeling hopeful but not entirely convinced.

Matthew Jacobs's deft direction of his own adaptation of Gillian White's novel (he particularly enjoyed the long bout of delirium tremens) was also assisted by an excellent performance from Kate Maherley as Vanessa, determined and resentful and vulnerable by turns.

One of the other one-off dramas shown over the Christmas week also ended with a rising inflection that seemed to owe more to seasonal goodwill than to cold-eyed realism. Guy Jenkin's Mr White Goes to Westminster (Tuesday, Channel 4) concluded with his hero vowing to battle on against corruption, cynicism and circulation-

characters for Jenkin's satire had been supplied by life, but only as far as the first ad break - after that he had to work out what to do with his Martin Bell figure - an ex-war correspondent who stands as an independent against a sleazestained Tory candidate.

His solution was a good ballot for Private Members' Bills and attempting to push through legislation which would compel newspapers to offer redress if they published lies about ordinary members of the public. What followed was partly a tutorial on how a sharpedged Bill can be polished to inmachine, partly an exploration of how private honour and hecause it was Christmas.

public probity might easily twist themselves into an unloosable knot (White's bill is secretly supported by his former lover. an ambitious Labour backhencher - he can't reveal the source of his funding to the rapacious hacks without dishing her career.)

Since he had constructed this tangle with some care, it was one, with the MP winning the a bit surprising that Jenkin should cut it apart so casually. with all the principal characters suddenly displaying a spotless and self-sacrificing nobility of character. Perhaps he wanted a bit of Capra optimism to finish with - but you couldn't help feeling that he was going against form as he did so - that the unnocuous smoothness by its ruly contempt that supplied passage through the party some of the best jokes here had been temporarily silenced just

WIN Blade Runner

THE INDEPENDENT

- the 3D real-time action

adventure game on PC CD-Rom



Do not miss this opportunity to win Blade Runner, the first Real-Time 3D Adventure Game. creations of the original Blade

The game features over 70 meticulously detailed 3D characters that recreate and augment some of the original cast of the motion picture.

These characters set their own goals and agendas, plot and exchange information, thereby producing unpredictable actions each time the game is played this creates extensive

replayability.

Q: Which actor played the lead in the movie

The

Runner cast

Blade Runner?

volceovers and digital re-

We have twenty Blade Runner

PC CD-Roms to win, to enter

this competition simply dial the

number below, answer the

following question on line and

leave your name and full address:

Call 0930 563406

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winners picked at random after lines close 8 January 1998. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply Editor's decision is final



REVIEWED BY ROBERT HANKS

It has been a long year - 1997, that is; 1998 has so far been a comparatively short one, though that situation seems set to change over the coming months -and the world of radio has had amazements, from James psychology, or the undertakerits full quota of thrills and Boyle's announcement that Ra-

dio 4 programmes would all be abolished and replaced by something similar, only better (an idea adapted by the Labour Party, with startling success, for its election manifesto), to Chris Evans's sudden purchase of Virgin Radio and subsequent appointment of his horse as director of programmes.

What with all the walk-outs, buy-outs, rows, deals, and Mark Radcliffe bobbing up and down the Radio 1 schedules, it's been hard to pay attention to the programmes themselves.

And the effort hasn't always been repaid. On Radio 4, in particular, there has been a dearth of interesting new features, and a dispiriting glut of seen. Then again, Zoe Ballrehashed old features, generally featuring Barbie dolls, Darwinian insights into human poet Thomas Lynch. Mean-

while, the regular magazine programmes - Woman's Hour. The Afternoon Shift, Kaleidoscope - have seemed irradiated with tedium: you want to decontaminate yourself after listening.

Hence the surprisingly unindignant response to Mr Boyle's slash-and-burn scheduling philosophy. Elsewhere at the BBC.

though, things have been looking more cheerful. During the brief interlude when Mark and Lard were occupying the breakfast slot - admittedly not the best showcase for their talents - Radio I had the most creative and satisfying line-up it's ever Radio 2 is Radio 2, and

Radio 3's musical presentation, still chasing after that ignis fatuus "accessibility", has got lost in the decaying swamp of inane cheerfulness. But speech output has been outstanding: the Sunday afternoon feature and the nightly post-concert strand have scored repeatedly, while Night Waves.

a programme that once suffered terrible reception problems due to being transmitted from somewhere up its own backside. has pulled itself out of that hole with aplomb.

The facile logic behind Radio 5's existence was shown there's nothing you or I can do up by Princess Diana's death; to stop it, but the evening what's the point of having 24schedules have become inhour rolling news when you're hook, that marked out my been a wasted year. creasingly bold and challenging.

going to blank out every other favourite drama, Bill Bryden's with some really quite clever and witty programmes popping up in odd corners. Then again, Steve Wright's Sunday of person who hasn't had one HMS Uhsses. before. Few of the independent stations offer such a sharply defined alternative to the other BBC networks - the notable and oddly lovable exception being Talk Radio UK, whose perbrands of loopiness has at times made The X Files look like a particularly sober edition of of view. Panorama.

In the end, though, the radio highlights of 1997 were all BBC programmes, and mostly broadcast on Radio 4. The exception was Blue Jam, Chris Morris's seething mix of music and heartless comedy on Radio 1. It had something of the same remorselessness, the same refusal to let the listener off the

channel? Still, it has given a noisy version of Alistair voice to a blokey, intelligent sort MacLean's existential navy lark Documentary needs to be

kinder than this. The best factual series was Noah Richler's In Paradise, a rich, eccentric exploration of how garden design and eschatology overlap in a sistent advocacy of many variety of cultures, which showed an exceptional eagerness to understand other points

And the best single documentary was Matt Thompson's Touching the Elephant, in which four blind people were invited to visit the zoo and discover what an elephant felt like; an acute investigation of how we perceive things, it was, inexplicably, deeply moving. If 1998 comes up with another programme as good, it won't have



Not so m straws as haystacks the wind The holiday season is Land Control

..... W.

- : 400

gga**ng** 1

_ - 3a - a =

🚣 ۽ و

4.0

: ; ****

100

4.,

* * * * *

althirt 🗷

- ._{...}

ع**د**ان (ا

وعاقبها الر

* #

10 mg

.

1200 mg

. * :::-:-

.

. . . .

4,109194

er mala

- n-...<u>-</u>_-

Zita_{res} - 1 · ~- ;

· Page

1 - 7

11.75

- -ি প্ৰি

- e : # - w

All the Res

ત્ર. મો ... મ≇

Sales A

13. A

2 × 43 🌞

15-144 ್⊶್ಬರ್ಫ್ ಕ್ಷ

و جو هميار

MICHAFI

e .. نت د 3'--

T_{2:} .

N. . . .

- .

**::-

ョ

Young Straw

festive cheer

provides

13/SATURDAY STORY

Dear Mr Straw

I write in the hope that the ar-

rest of a Cabinet member's son

for supplying a small amount

of cannabis might bring home

to you just how stupid the law is, and how much police and

court time is tied up in prose-

Not so much straws as haystacks in the wind

The holiday season is traditionally the time of whodunnits. Normally they come in the form of an Agatha Christie movie on the telly, but this year the country has indulged itself in a reallife political mystery. Our Legal Affairs Correspondent looks at the chain of media clues that pointed to the identity of that Cabinet minister.

The British love a good mystery. Yesterday the denouement of the thriller "Who was the Cabinet minister whose son (allegedly) sold drugs to a reporter?" finally arrived, though not before the country's

BY. **MICHAEL** STREETER

ramshackle media laws once more began to look farcical. A week after the story first broke, it seemed that the entire planet except for the people who voted in the Labour government last May knew the solution to the riddle.

for newspaper readers to solve the puzzle. Some clues have been cunningly disguised, designed only for the cognoscenti to pick up on, for those with already half a clue as to the nan's identity. In others, the has half expected to find a giant arrow over a photograph of Jack Straw with the caption "it's him. folks!".

One of the broadest hints came in the Mirror itself, the newspaper which broke the story on Christmas Eve, and which was condemned by some parts of the chattering classes simply for doing its job of investigative journalism. Aggneved that Dawn Alford, one of its two reporters who were present in the pub with Master Straw, had been arrested in connection with possession, it led its front page on Tuesday with he headline "Is it fair, Mr

CAC PROPERTY (FEE)

10N :44 :-- > ** = **

YO war ar mark

ACH! 355

NASON

The reason for such a telltale - but understandable heading was that the paper was writing to the Home Secretary "as head of law and order", asking him to investigate the matter. Just in case no one got the message, two photographs of the minister were also included.

Never noted for its subtlety, the Sun (smarting over its rival's scoop) ran a column on Tuesday by William Langley in which he revealed that the minister concerned had played a central role in the Government's policies against drugs and on parental responsibility. This was as clear a reference to the Home Secretary's policies as you could get. But just to be sure, Mr Langley ended his article by suggesting that instead of setting an example, by appearing to hide behind the anonymity of the law, the minister concerned was open to charges of an "I'm all right, Jack" attitude.

One of the clearest signs possible came from a front page story in the Independent On Sunday last weekend, which in the middle of discussing the issue suddenly declared that the Home Secretary had turned down a "formal approach" for an interview by the newspaper. With no other context, the reference could have no other meaning than revealing the ninister's identity.

Meanwhile, other newspapers continued to pepperreports of the affair with mentions and photographs of Jack Straw (qua Home Secretary) and law-and-order policy, and even some television broadcasts

appeared to be playing the spot-the-clue game. In one news broadcast on New Year's Day, Sky TV used footage of the Cabinet which lingered tellingly on Mr Straw.

But perhaps the cheekiest clue came from yesterday's London Evening Standard, in whose Diary there was a "good news" story of how Mr Straw's teenage son William has succeeded in winning a place to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. An "insider" was quoted as saying he will have no problems with his A-levels "providing nothing else distracts him".

It ended: "If only all politicians' children could set such a shining academic example."

All this is good fun on one level, of course, except that by the time the Standard was reduced to that ploy, all the world knew or could know, of the minister's identity except for the majority of people in England

For some observers, there is something rather dismal about the British media being reduced to such sad subterfuges to tell their readers of something the rest of the world has known about for days.

Scottish newspapers, which yesterday named Mr Straw, just completed the circle of publications which took up camp around the legal fortress of England. Irish newspapers and broadcasters had got in on the act, as had France-Soir, a French newspaper available in Yet there have been hints this country, and assorted press enough over those seven days and media from all around the globe. Indeed, by yesterday afternoon, Associated Press news service was running the name in this country.

There was however, a class of Britons who were in on the secret - the media and politihints have been so blatant one cal establishments who informed themselves within hours of the Mirror's initial publication. This privileged information was quickly spread among families and friends, with the words "It's Jack Straw" replacing the usual "Happy Christmas" greetings when journalists visited their relatives on 25 December.

Even some Metropolitan Police officers - the force which arrested William Straw - were phoning their media contacts to discover the inside track, while one journalist revealed the mystery man's name to fellow diners at a packed London restaurant as midnight chimed on New Year's Eve.

There was one more group of people in the know within days of the story breaking; Britain's growing band of Internet users. If ever there was a good example of how the Net can be used to undermine media controls, this was it - but usually those people who extol this virtue are referring to Third World dictatorships, not to a country which is poised to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into

its domestic law. The Net discussion sites were buzzing as early as Christmas Eve, speculating furiously over the mystery minister. By Christmas Day enterprising netties had published full lists of male members of the Cabinet who had children, and by a process of elimination Jack Straw, who lived in the right area and has a teenage son, was singled out. The clincher for some was the obscure - and unconfirmed piece of information that Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, had been spotted at a bus stop outside Mr Straw's south London house the night before the story broke on Christmas Eve.

But while the netties' sleuthing is to be applauded. they still represent a minority - 6 million users - of the population, leaving the great majority of ordinary voters who do not have media and political contacts in the dark.

And the Cabinet minister's name did and does matter. Mr Straw is, after all, the Home Secretary who has strongly opposed the legalisation of cannabis while highlighting the central importance of parental



consation of saying one thing

Home Secretary Jack Straw

ependent on Sunday. Testing drug offenders, page 2 The minister's son, page 3

The truth is in there: Heavy hints, allusive paragraphs and oh-so-clever cartoons - the media did all they legally could to give away Jack Straw's identity

Photomontage: Julian Saul

SHOULD MINISTER

REVEAL HIS IDENTITY?

Call our You The Jury notine

YES 0891 400 698

NO 0891 400 699

used the case to illustrate the chal-

used the case to illustrate the chal-lenges facing both parents and child-ren in the drugs-swamp Nineties. With sensitive handling, his stature could actually have been increased. Instead, the mystery Minister is left looking a humbug, Instead of a moral example the public sees a case of I'm

responsibility in controlling the police station to talk to officers (and were the public utterances of the Shadow home secretary behaviour of young people. he prepared a press statement another clue?) as a "slow tor-This culminated in many of the to explain his position. It was ture" for the minister's family. provisions of his recently pubonly on later legal advice that he did not go public. Since then The decision of the Sun last lished Crime and Disorder Bill, he has stressed, first through Tuesday to publish the name including those calling for parenting lessons, and which will "sources" and then directly. was greeted with an injunction probably become law later this that he wanted to go public, but

was constrained by the law. Since the episode began, In hindsight, Mr Straw may regret this decision to hold Mr Straw, an astute and honest politician, has explicitly fire, which led to the saga recognised the likely public inwhich developed over the folterest in the affair and before lowing days - a process described by Sir Brian Mawhinney



Helping with investigations: Reporter Dawn Alford was arrested in connection with the possession of cannabis

obtained by the Attorney General, John Morris QC, under the laws of contempt (not under the 1933 Children and Young Persons Act as manythink). Although this was an honourable attempt by the Attorney General to protect a young person's identity, it both dismayed some lawyers and journalists who claim the law of contempt was not intended to cover this specific area, and gave the appearance of a Govemment cover-up. The same applied to the decision by police - on advice from the Crown Prosecution Service - to arrest Ms Alford.

Given that early last year, under the last Government, the Home Office had said they were considering a change in the law to clear up this grey area where a juvenile is arrested but is not yet in court proceedings, some believe it may have been better had Mr Straw's department announced a review of the law and then allowed publication of the identity.

Of course there are good reasons to protect juveniles facing criminal allegations. As Paul Cavadino, principal offieer of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders says, the anonymity rule is there to protect juvenile desendants "not their parents from embarrassment". He adds: "Media publicity can seriously hinder the rehabilitation of offenders." The naming of Master Straw will undoubtedly colour his recep- nalism. At least, though, they tion at Oxford University, though fellow undergraduates ment over a quiet Christmas.

not aware of his "background" would probably have been in the minority.

Yet it is a simple fact that in cases of teenagers accused of similar offences as William Straw, and named by the media, Government law officers have not stepped in and sought protective injunctions. Many would argue that a Cabinet minister's son should not have more protection than "ordinary" children. This suggests the best course now is clarification In fact the Government has

already considered this, albeit in a broader context. The White Paper on Youth Justice, published by Jack Straw last year. called for "more openness" in youth court proceedings. It stated: "Justice is best served in an open court where the criminal process can be scrutinised and the offender cannot hide behind a cloak of anonymity."

In any case, where a senior Government minister's son is involved in allegations which touch directly on his father's policy, common sense surely dictates that the public have a right to know of the fact, a reality that the law should allow.

Otherwise the law, as it has done in the last week, descends into that other great British institution - a farce. It may be a bit rich for a French newspaper. as France-Soir did, to lecture the British establishment on "typical hypocrisy" for stopping publication of the identity, given France's stringent privacy laws. However, few observers here have found the last few days' events satisfactory, be it from the point of view of William, his parents, or British democracy and jourprovided some rare entertainTHE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

lome Secretar

£10 lunch at one of 6 Conran restaurants



Starts this weekend in the Independent on Sunday and continues throughout February in The Independent

1st token in The Independent on Sunday on January 4th



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE, 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Some readers will detect a heavy dose of media self-interest in the saga of whether or not Jack Straw would be named as the man whose son supplied cannabis to a Mirror reporter before Christmas. And some readers are, of course, right. It was a cracking story, and in the news business that countermands most other considerations.

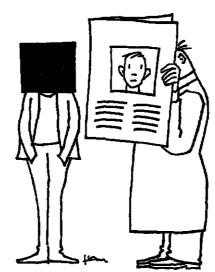
Today we, like other papers, are able to tell the full story. It is no longer the case, as it had been throughout the Christmas holiday season, that the political and journalistic establishment knew the identity of the minister but the rest of Britain didn't. A week ago, we said that the story told us nothing essential or new about the drugs debate. A week on, we haven't changed our minds. But in the meantime, we have all been caught up in days of collective twisted-knickerism about power. secrecy, hypocrisy, the press, the Attorney-General, politicians generally, and "the right to know". It is well worth a few minutes disentangling.

First, is the law an ass generally to prevent newspapers publishing the identities of youngsters in court cases? No. Despite the numbers of people in their mid-teens who commit unpleasant and sometimes violent crimes that would disgrace any adult, the law is wise. Helping people to grow up, and grow away from crime, means avoiding branding them early in their lives.

Second, though, is the law excessively inflexible in this regard? Probably, it is. Like it or not, where the 17-year-old involved is the son of the Home Secretary. at a time when the Home Secretary is trying to remoralise the country's attitude to youth and drugs, that person is in a different category from any other teenager. Given that his offence was a common one, and doesn't affect the wider issues, that is his bad luck. But the story was just too interesting, too piquant, to stay for long at the level of north London dinner-party gossip. The politicians were ill-advised to try to keep the lid on it. Given that Mr Straw wanted to speak out, the Attorney General, in particular, has made a fool of himself in effectively gagging his colleague.

Yesterday, he was forced to change direction. Why? Because in the modern world, if a secret is sufficiently interesting, it simply cannot be kept from one group of people, in this case those living in England and Wales.

Scotland has her own legal system. Yesterday, facing no legal threat themselves, three Scottish papers published Mr Straw's name. The Republics of Ireland and France have papers that are quite widely read in England. They did the same.



Millions of people cross to and from Britain all the time, carrying information as well as wine and suntan oil. And for anyone with a thousand pounds' worth or so of computer kit in the back bedroom, all the facts were anyway available on the Internet.

We live in a highly porous world.

where news and gossip sloshes around, blithely ignoring traditional jurisdictions: whether it be satellite broadcasting, the Net or cheap flights to Paris, technology trumps censorship, time after time after time. New Labour, as people still freshly in power and therefore presumably still reasonably in touch with realities, ought

to have realised that from the start. So it follows, then, that all government should stop trying to censor anything, and that we should know everything about everyone? Some editors who should know better have been quick to say that the Straw saga demonstrates the impossibility of a privacy law ever working. That, too, shows a lack of proportion. This was a highly unusual case, with a strong polit-

A privacy law which protected ordinary citizens from prying into their private sexual lives, for instance, would not be affected by the availability of foreign newspapers in London, or by the Internet. Similarly, the classification and occasional censorship of films can be defended even when "everybody knows" you can get the stuff in Belgium or Soho. Everybody knows, but everybody doesn't go. Most people can't be bothered. Meanwhile, protecting young minds from images of extreme and sadistic violence remains a valid thing for governments to

What, finally, about the position of Me Straw himself? It is undeniably emba russing. He will be laughed at by some the next time he speaks about drugs a about young people generally. The profession sneerers will find some easy copy in the weeks ahead. It would have been much easier for him had his name been published. immediately, and the week of innatendo. nudge-nudging and press pontification been avoided. But we don't believe there is a single fair-minded person who thinks worse of him for what happened. It is the kind of thing that can happen, and in many cases has happened, to families up and down the country. He dealt with it briskly and is at last talking about it openly. How can he be less qualified to do his job now he is revealed as a normal member of an

ordinary family, than he was before? The only lesson for the whole Government to remember is that you can't keep a good story down. For a few days, as we digested smears and leaks from the police, injunctions from the Attorney General and the arrest of the reporter concerned, and noted a rising bubble of mockery from all sides, they looked like a flat-footed, out of touch Tories at their worst. We only hope they noticed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paying for the Pill

Sir: It would be an astonishing irony indeed if free contraception, which has survived 18 years of Conservative government, were now to fall victim to a New Labour government with more than one hundred women MPs ("Prescription charge plan for Pill", 31 December).

Not only an irony but also innumerate nonsense if the intention, as stated, is to save public money. Someone should whisper in Tony Blair's ear that the alternative to spending some £40 a year on contraception will be, in many cases, to spend around £350 once or twice a year on NHS abortion, according to figures given in the House of Commons by Tessa Jowell on 12 November, or £1,398 on child- the meal contained enough birth in the NHS, as reported by Paul Boateng in the House on 30 October. These figures take account only of average immediate NHS costs, and not of social support in the future in helping parents to cope with unwanted children. These costs are probably incalculable. MADELEINE SIMMS London NW11

Rebel MEPs

Sir: I'm afraid my erstwhile colleagues Hugh Kerr and Ken Coates are being a little economical with the truth ("Rebel MEPs accuse Labour machine of dirty tricks", 2 January). There is no necessity for an annual re-affirmation of political group membership. Myself and my colleagues have not had to inform the President of the European Parliament that we intend to continue as members of the Socialist Group in 1998. It is taken as automatic.

However, the administrative rules of the parliament provide financial if not political motives for such a declaration of change of political affiliation. Political group finances will be calculated on the basis of group membership as of 5 January 1998. It seems that the two rebels want to have their cake and cat it. They would like to be expelled from the Labour Party, but not at the cost of losing to the Socialist Group the dowry they can offer the Greens for membership if they sign up before 5 January.

The rules of the parliament are crystal clear; you cannot belong to two groups simultaneously. It will not be the first time, or the last, that financial considerations will have influenced political principle. If the two MEPs have signed up to join the Greens, they have inevitably left the Labour Party. In consequence, all that needs to be done is note their departure. GLYN FORD MEP

(Greater Manchester East, Brussels

The writer is Socialist Group Spokesman on the European Parliament's Rules Committee

Hunt sabotage

Sir: Julie Roxburgh claims fletter, 29 December) that hunt suboteurs would never harm an animal. This is not

true. One only has to watch the Boxing Day footage of the Essex and Farmers' Union hunt to see a saboteur delibcrately terrifying horses by threatening to hit them with a placard. I myself have seen a horse seized by the bridle in such a painful way that it reared up and fell on its rider. This is to say nothing of the many foxes I have seen killed as a direct result of hunt saboteurs running in to block their only avenue of escape and

(report, 27 December), I agree with Mrs Roxburgh so far as to believe that whoever fed them the poisoned meal did not intend to kill them. I would guess drug to dope the entire pack it incapable of hunting on Boxing Day but, in the way of all dogs, the first hounds to find the food bolted the lot and received a lethal overdose.

malice, but stupidity and ignorance that killed them. Anvone who has watched hunt saboteurs in action will not be surprised.

Dorking, Surrey

Anti-anti-anti-smoking

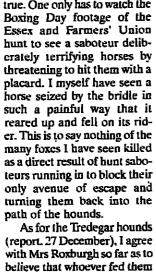
come as big an anti-anti-January). Bores are, by definition, tedious, but Ms Ironside is dangerous also, because she succeeds in giving the imprescouraged.

But it does matter. Your arcer deaths among men reflects just keeps on coming: this very 27 December). Do I detect nal reports an authoritative

days, it seems a bit unfair for Virginia Ironside to undermine anyone's resolve to give up smoking. God knows it's hard enough without that: and it is distressing to learn that to the costs of smoking must now be added those of candles, matches and cans of deodorant spray to render our living rooms wholesome again. Especially as they don't work. DAVID GIRLING

Newcastle upon Tyne

know her history. It was not Hitler who first introduced post-Reformation) society but James I. whose A Counter Blast



SARAH GODLEY

Sir: Virginia Ironside has besmoking bore as any of the antismoking bores whom she rightly castigates (Dilemmas, 1 distress. sion that smoking really does not matter - or is even to be en-

ticle "Fall in cancer deaths Darwin College, Cambridge overshadowed by rise in number of cases" (31 December) says "The sharp fall in lung canthe fall in smoking that began over 20 years ago" and evidence week the British Medical Jour- a whiff of sociological cybernew study, "Passive Smoking. The Health Impact", which indicates that passive smoking. among other unpleasant things. "increases the risk of lung cancer, and as a result, leads to the deaths of an estimated 2,000 non-smokers each year" with-

Has there actually been an in the EU. experiment which proved that On New Year's Day, of all brilliant minds are ineffective in ordinary life? How did they define the sample of brilliant people? Did all the selected people meekly participate and fail at the ordinary tasks? How do you define an ordinary task in the real world, and success or fail-The more interesting question seems to me to be: "Why

are we hostile to bright people?" that we were depriving the pop-



individual minds.

Cats at Christmas

Sir: The kitten bought by Rupresent for his young son ("On the unseasonal death of a pet". 24 December) had been pur-Cornwell was told by the shopkeeper that it was seven weeks old. Within days the kitten had died, much to his family's

to Tobacco was published as ear-

ly as 1604. So a thinking person's

aversion to this foul habit is not

particularly new.

manure?

computers.

GEORGE GÖMÖRI

Nerd or profiteer?

Sir: What a carry-on up the cy-

ber path ("How the nerds are

leading us up the cyber path",

Given that Bill Gates's

lifestyle is unlike yours and

mine, we can ask if that goes

with being a very rich man, or

with being the boss of a vast cor-

poration or with playing with

imals in their care over the pert Cornwell as a Christmas Christmas period but sadly some pet shops take advantage of the seasonal rise in demand. Kittens from pet shops have ofchased from a pet shop and Mr ten been taken from their mothers when they are far too young and are unable to feed properly. It would not surprise me if this particular kitten was in has been properly weaned from

I would dispute your reasons

for computers being difficult to

use. Gratuitous is nothing to do

time I was employed in selling

a computer program which

came with a manual. To reduce

costs the manual was never

produced. The boss's response

to my protest was that the cus-

tomers' money would be in the

bank before they found out, and

to remember that negative at-

No reputable rescue organ- If it was the runt of the litter it at the very earliest. Animal isations re-home any of the an-should have been given closer rescue organisations are full to attention before it reached the pet shop.

Fluffy's story is, unfortunate, quite common, It might ganisation such as the Cats or even two kittens. Protection League which nev- MJ McCAWLEY er re-homes a kitten before it fact younger than seven weeks. its mother, at eight weeks old. Horsham, West Susser-

by travel agents who specialise

in national and international rail

travel and whose staff spare no

the brim with healthy cats and kittens desperately needing good homes. Perhaps now would be the right time for Mr have been avoided had Mr. Cornwell's family to approach Cornwell gone to a rescue or- one of them about homing one

Chief Executive The Cuts Protection League

effort to apply the highest stanwith it. The reasons are profit, dards of customer care, inprofit and profit. Once upon a cluding an efficient local train these islands. Teignmouth, Devon

Sevem-Dee Travel Gobowen Railway Station Oswestry, Shropshire

enquiry service.

DAVID J LLOYD

titudes don't lead to promotion. FRANCES BELL

Here's the number Sir: Charles Arthur is incorrect in claiming that all railway stations are no longer listed in the telephone directory ("Mystery the action suggested in anothtale of the missing railway stations", 31 December).

A glance at the Yellow Pages for Shropshire, Hereford and Mid-Wales will reveal the mainline railway station contact telephone numbers for Gobowen (01691 679659), Ledbury, Ludlow and Newtown Powys. These stations, together with those at We burnt witches, not realising Pembrey and Burry Port, Clitheroe and Saxmundham,

Sir: Virginia Ironside does not Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk anti-smoking into modern (i.e. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

A modest proposal

Sir: It is clear that the Government does not consider that the rearing of children can be called "work". The Government might therefore prefer that all women in the UK should stop rearing children so that they could, instead, engage in "real work". In contrast to er context by Lysistrata, this would hardly constitute strike action, and might even be applauded by the many men who have no desire to contribute to the bringing up of their own

offspring. Eventually, an ageing population without young people to support it could be taken over by such members of the EU as are willing to pay and respect women for the community service of producing the next generation.

This would be a long-term solution to the problem of idle lone parents, but perhaps Mr better than this. Blair would like to accelerate MARK REARDON the process by sending all ex- Leeds

ulation of genes for bright and have booking offices provided isting young children abroad. as an acceptable beef substitute. The mothers would not then require expensive childcare provision and could concentrate all their energies on making money instead of making the future population of DOREEN TAMPION

Supermarket strike

Sir: Your series of reports on supermarkets (from 29 December) is typically consumerist in focus. Try another angle. The large supermarkets employ large workforces, most of which are organised in trade unions. Their power, should they decide to use it, is considerable. They could. in fact, halt much of consumerist society at a stroke. Supermarket workers, the new miners? KEITH FLETT

Out of joint

Sir: I can understand why an article about cannabis ("They're so out of it they can't face reality", 2 January) is often accompanied by a picture of a joint and a small pile of weed - presumably so that Cabinet Ministers know what they're talking about. But why are the pictured spliffs always so badly rolled? Surely even a Cabinet Minister's son could do

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A lot of readers have written landscapes in watercolours. express delight at the return of the one-section newspaper, to produce due to the lack of lies with a constant drip of letly paper, and the multi-section Saturday paper.

Well, here comes a confession: I too like single-section papers. If we had (four-tower, in the jargon, not pand the main broadsheet paper beyond 32 pages, then I would love to return to the Surrounded by a grey ocean purity of the single section of newsprint over Christmas weekday paper. But we are and New Year, it becomes inlimited in size and simply can- creasingly clear that the news not throughout the year, business is badly disorganised. cram in everything that needs Holidays are the time most to be in a 32-page broadsheet people can spend maximum ... as well as printing the ad- time reading papers; but vertising we need to stay in there is generally a severe business. (Those readers who rather sweetly suggest drop- ries just when people have ping the adverts should be time to enjoy them. What we prepared to pay £1 or more need to do, clearly, is to for their daily paper as a re- arrange a better match besult.) Saturday papers are tween supply and the derather different. They are mands of news addicts. This becoming more like Sunday ones and our research sug-ticularly spicy news stories gests that, while a minority want smaller papers, most people expect a multi-section August and at Easter. After

Staring into the mirror pudding-faced, hungover. pouchy-eyed and smeared with the fatty residues of self-indulgence ~ I can as usual at this time of year think of no Resolution which I stories would be stored in have the faintest intention of keeping. So here are a few friendly suggestions for others. Tony Blair: to maintain a every holiday break to decide serious and unsmiling image at all times. The New Labour cheer up readers. It seemed, Government generally: to however briefly, a brilliant pick a fight with someone rich and powerful. Rupert Murdoch: to publicly apologise for tion of the festive press, it bebeing such a global bastard comes quite apparent that's and retire to a monastery to more or less what happens contemplate his many sins. anyway. Damien Hirst: to hold an exhibition of graceful little

weekend read.

over the Christmas break to Bill Gates: to try a pencil. Gordon Brown: to save Britain's free-admission galwhich we have been obliged leries and museums. Oasis: to retire. The Teletubbies: to beholiday advertising. This tal- have disgracefully at musicawards ceremonies, do a ters during the rest of the year sponsorship deal with a cigfrom people protesting about arette manufacturer, storm the usual two-section week- out of a Newsnight interview, and then ... retire (to spend their ill-gotten gains on pink custard and ecstasy in a Hacienda-style mansion in Hertfordshire). I don't supdifferent printing presses pose any of the above will follow this well-meant advice. three-tower) and could ex- But it would cheer up 1998 if they did.

> shortage of strong news stocould be done by storing parand releasing them much later, during December, July, all, if you are interested in a daring helicopter rescue, it isn't going to matter much whether you first find out about it now or in a few months' time, so long as you aren't last to find out. To make this work, interesting sealed containers - to mature, like wine - and a committee of editors would meet before which should be released to idea. On the other hand, leafing through a wide selec-

> > Andrew Mart

QUOTE UNQUOTE

There are genuine agoraphobics, who become panicstricken out of doors. And those whose fears vanish as the betting shops open - Lord Tebbit. on benefit scroungers

I'll eat something out of the fridge with its sell-by date glaring back at me, salmonella winking at me in neon lights. But life's too short. I can't be worrying about salmonella when I'm worrying about hitting my high-Cs - Lesley Garrett, soprano

Virtually every foreign secretary I have ever served with in the past 30 years has fallen fast asleep in my presence Lord Renwick, former British ambassador to Washington

People resent fat-cat businessmen with their noses in the trough, but they don't seem to resent fat-cat footballers earning more in a week than the supporter earns in a year David Mellor, head of the Government's Football Task Force

Conductors should be back on the buses, packets of salt back in the crisps, clockwork back in clocks, and levers back on pens - Penelope Fitzgerald, author, expressing hopes for '98

Raw materials, cheap slaves and beautiful prostitutes -Alexander Prokhanov, 'Izvestia' editor, on what should be portrayed in a new symbol for his country

مكذا من الاعل

With its flaming in a bubble. It is

LICHFIELD

BURRENDERING

=3. | ¥ = · · · 5.5 7<u>7</u>

1 **2** 12000 12 mg The state of A . . .

iiz

2 . . . C. L. € 7 Symmetry . E:: - . P= 8. p − 2 2-1-200 mg (1) 1**≲**42 - - -*# (*____.

Not everythin

15/COMMENT

With its flamingos and parrots, it is paradise in a bubble. It is too seductive to leave



g for governments is

au the position of Mr aghed at by some, the

about drugs or about about professional

me casy copy in the

uld have been much

name neen published

ie week of innuendo.

bieze boutificated

æ don't believe there

ed person who thinks

at happened it with

thappen, and in many

L to families up and

le dealt with it brookly

Pour a Prof. Him

120 do by Johns nal member of an

ie was heliogely

the whole Gove

n. For they days

no leaks from the

om the Attorney

tine ten merang

 $\overline{a}|p_{B_1}p_{B_2} + 1 \overline{a}_{B_1}\overline{p}_{B_2}$

The book of the a

in the

- -

is the you carry

LICHFIELD **SURRENDERING** TO THE TIMES-

Imagine a muddy forest surrounded by some of the dullest countryside in France. Scattered, implausibly, among the trees are 500 prefab bungalows, a hotel, a shopping mall, a sports centre and a swimming pool, called "The Tropical Aquatic Paradise". The last three are housed in the "bulle" or "bubble", a kind of moon-base, rising Spielbergishly above the pine trees and bungalows. The whole is surrounded by one token, but psychologically significant, strand of barbed wire.

CenterParcs are a Dutch idea, now specessfully exported to Britain and to France. The concept is simple: an inland holiday camp for the relatively affluent and sporty, aimed at families with young or teenage kids, but also popular, by my observation, with groups of parent-fleeing youngsters. Cars are allowed into to off-load only. After that they are banished to a car park at the edge of the wire "for the sake of our children". It is difficult to argue with such a sensible rule. But the distance to the car park also creates a powerful incentive not to stray outside to the surrounding towns. Instead, you spend your money in the restaurants and shops within the wire. Prices in them are irritatingly above the going rate in the free world but not so irritatingly that you are tempted, more than once, to make a Colditz-style mission te eat lunch.

We spent the New Year at the CenterParcs site on the edge of Normandy. The first thing I should say is that the younger members of the family had a wonderful time. The second thing I should say is that I have never heard anyone speak a slighting word about a CenterParc holiday.

Thus it is doubtless my problem that I found the experience spiritually crushing: a paradigm of what is most addictive, compelling and depressing about the late 20th century, the age of the mall and the video-cassette, the age of pre-packaged freedom, of frenetic, but unadventurously easy fun. The CenterParcs experience reminded me of East Germany, or, rather, East Germany, as it might have been, if had been run by the Dutch and staffed by the French: a kind of cosy, sporty, bossy, lobotomised world, in which everyone was busy and contented, save a few, puzzled old dissidents like me.

I use the plural in the hope that there were a few other dissidents around but I confess I never made contact with them. There was one French man, of whom, originally, I had high hopes. He gave me a wry, knowing smile on the first day, as if to say "what on earth are we doing here. We are men of the world, used to freedom, adventure, the high road and more than seven channels on the TV."

I complained to him, inarticulately no doubt, about all the bossy rules,



the enforced sense of happy times and the constant, gentle extraction of money. He just grinned. The next day, I met him in the Tropical Aquatic Paradise as I was juggling with wet towels, arm-bands, a swimming ring, a float-board, three overcoats and three sets of clothes and searching for a five franc piece for the locker, which was somewhat larger than a cigar box. He saw a complaining look on my face and butted in before I could talk. "C'est bien, n'est ce pas?" When I started to object, he specified: "Eh bien, c'est super pour les gamins. (Well, it's wonderful for the children)". What could one say? Of course it was super for the gamins. The accursed gamins were hav-

ing a great time. It might be thought that the individualistic French would resist the regimentation of CenterParcs. Not a bit of it. The two French centres are booked up for the peak periods weeks in advance. It is true that, when it

comes to holidays, the French are among the least packaged nations on earth. But that is largely because they (80 per cent) take their holidays in France. Many of them, 60 per cent according to one study, spend their holidays in their own second homes, or with relatives in the countryside or sponging on friends.

If they are forced to pay for their holidays, the French are rather drawn to a bit of regimentation. Club Med. an up-market CenterParcs, often with worse facilities, was after all a French idea. The French are - against the round-shouldered stereotype - a very sporty nation. French children were recently declared by a Europe-wide investigation to be the fittest in the EU. All in all, the French take to the hyperactive, CenterParcs idea depressingly well. They are, presumably. individualistic within their bungalows while conforming in public; nothing could be more French than that.

The most archetypical of all CenterParc residents, to my eyes, were the two parrots and six flamingos, which always occupied the same branch and same pool of water in the giant, cigarette-smoke filled "bubble" at the heart of the site. Their job was to help convert the shopping mall and swimming pool into the Tropical Aquatic Paradise, as advertised. They could have flown around the shops if they had wanted to: with a little guile, they could even have escaped. But the birds saw no reason to cause any trouble, except occasionally to fight amongst themselves. It was warm. They had friends. Their food was brought to them. Their presence entertained the gamins. On our 50th trip to what I insisted on calling the swimming pool, Charlie, aged seven, asked: "But. Daddy, what is a Tropical Automatic

"Automatic paradise": the phrase summed up the place perfectly.

Football mania has a lot to answer for



TREVOR PHILLIPS THE TROUBLE WITH BOYS

Some New York wag once calculated that after you'd discounted the men who were too old, too young, gay, married, unemployed, in prison, about to go into prison, junkies, or downright social misfits, the choice available to a young woman was pretty thin: just one eligible bachelor for every nine women. When the statistic was trotted out, all attached males would chorus "So where's my other eight, then?"

As ever, there's a grain of truth in the satire; and whilst the British can never lay claim to the extremes generated by American society, the statistics released by Scotland Yard this week will cause a shudder among the parents of teenage girls throughout the land. The young women themselves may simply shrug their shoulders; they've suspected for most of their lives that their male peers are worse than useless.

The picture painted by the Scotland Yard study is of loutish, delinquent males, many barely able to write their names. Children, mostly boys under 16, commit two out of every five street robbenies, one in three car thefts and a similar proportion of house burglaries. Having recently been the victim of auto crime, I can even envisage the sort of little creep we are talking about - but let's not dwell on my prejudices. Instead, we should note that many of these crimes are committed during school hours; not surprisingly, the educational achievement of those who are caught and can therefore be studied, is somewhat lower than that of the average Teletubby. Interviews of 500 young offenders by the Basic Skills Agency showed that one in five couldn't write their names and addresses properly, half had problems with the time and date, and three out of 10 couldn't fill in a job application form - and none of these was under the influence of illegal substances at the time.

These are people for whom applying to a welfare-to-work scheme, the Big Idea for their salvation, represents an intellectual challenge the size of Mount Everest. The minister responsible for standards in schools has declared himself 'staggered" - a state all too familiar to teenage boys following an active Friday night. We will hear his proposals for

a task force or two, some new cessful practice by some outfor honours next time round. probably), and the obligatory exhortation to teachers to demand more from their male students. But sooner or later someone will have to explain what is going on.

Assuming that there isn't anything being put into the water to depress male IQ, to what can we attribute these findings? One unusual, but, I think, rather credible cause has recently been brought to my attention: football. A distinguished educationist (who modestly does not wish to be named) has recently drawn my attention to work suggesting that boys are becoming so utterly obsessed by the beautiful game that there is little space left in their little brains for any-

On the face of it, this seems

slightly absurd; Sir Tom Finney was as ardently heroworshipped as is Alan Shearer. George Eastham as eagerly followed as is Ian Wright. Small boys imitated George Best's footwork as assiduously as Ryan Giggs's. But a generation ago, football was just one of a number of recreations, alongside cricket, athletics, stampcollecting, war games and the Boy Scouts; today it is a total way of life. Television, the stock market and oodles of money have turned a game into a selfcontained universe. Boys talk about it, watch it, and gain their status from performing on the field, talking about it off the field, knowing its history and statistics inside out. Games teachers complain that potential geniuses in other sports settle for mediocrity in soccer: classroom teachers sigh that half their classes are only whiling away the hours inside before rushing out to the play-

ground to practise their latest free-kick set pieces. I would yield to no one in my enthusiasm for football; anyone channels, maybe there should who has given nearly four be a requirement on them to decades to the cause of Chelsea make an effort to persuade their Football Club needs no further proof of devotion to the sport. However, a diet of football alone must deprive boys of the range of skills that girls are picking up daily - articulacy, manual dexterity, social interactions and all the things which make it possible to read and analyse anything more than the league

remedying the situation on tables. The result is girls forg-Monday, no doubt there will be ing ahead, and boys with a lack of enthusiasm for anyschemes to spread the suc- thing that involves reading books without pictures, a narstanding headteachers (in line rowness of outlook, and an incapacity to communicate in anything other than Graham-Taylor-speak.

It used to be said that boys, developing later, would catch up in the final years of school, particularly over A-levels. But this year's results showed that, if anything, the opposite is true. For the first time girls performed pretty much as well as boys in science and maths; my own guess is that examiners' and teachers' low expectations of girls have always depressed their results. New methods of assessment, which make the outcome less reliant on the all-or-nothing final papers, have lessened the impact of this bias, and we are now seeing a truer reflection of girls' abilities.

However, all is not lost for the male of the species. A number of football clubs are beginning to recognise that their responsibility lies beyond the terraces; Peterborough United, for example, is reinventing itself as a patron of the arts. Arsenal and others are pioneering the equivalent of America's

These are people for whom applying to a welfare-to-work scheme, the Big Idea for their salvation, is an intellectual challenge the size of Mount Everest

football scholarships, encouraging boys who would like to be professionals to compete for places with the club, not just with their feet but with their brains. There is even some talk of roping football clubs into homework schemes for schoolchildren. If football is indeed part of the problem, it could also turn out to be part of the solution. And when, later this year, the big clubs get permission to start their own TV young viewers to learn to read and write. After all, the head and the feet can work at the same time; the former captain of Brazil, the world's greatest footballing nation, was a certain Brasileiro Sampaio Vieira de Oliveira, DPhil; not for nothing was his playing name

Not everything shrinks with movie therapy

various films to help people

come to terms with their prob-

lems. Recently MGM asked

him to endorse The Wizard of



ap frair ...

Stuffed into the sofa, you can't move after the over-indulgence of Christmas and are thus trapped by the horrors of the festive season. Worse, you only realise this when you have just watched with horrible fascination 20 minutes of the World's

You cannot budge until you know whether the Swede, the Dane or the Finn will lift more slot machines, run round and round carrying a rock (an ancient Icelandic custom apparentity) and push a truck across the finishing line first. (For your information, I think it was the Finn but all the muscles started to look alike after a bit.) That is the nightmare of

Watching Christmas specials or films you've seen zillions of times (I made a personal vow not to stay up for Airplane this year) always seemed an occupational hazard of the season. But thanks to Bernie Wooder -Britain's first film therapist -I've come to look at this in a different light. Mr Wooder prescribes

Oz which has just been rereleased. He was happy to agree as he thinks characters in the film are useful role models.

The idea is that if you are Strongest Man competition. woolly-headed and unintelligent you identify with the Scarecrow; mechanical and going through the motions you bond with the Tin Man; tense and frightened you concentrate on the Lion and thus work out how to deal with your inadequacies. As I tend to go through all those emotions within half an hour of reaching work, I came to the conclusion I should be watching The Wizard rather than The Big Breakfast every

morning. For most people, New Year's resolutions, apart from putting the lid back on the toothpaste and not drinking more than the level recommended by the Department of Health, usually include some sort of inner improvement. However most of us never manage it. There is al-

ways therapy but is it worth waiting 10 years to unscramble your psyche and then find that you've managed to scramble some new parts of it in the process?

So Mr Wooder's film therapy may be the answer: films rarely last more than two hours and bingo - a newer better you! For The Wizard of O2 is not the only film which Mr Wooder feels can help. He recommends The Full Monty for those who are feeling the problems of redundancy, Pretty Woman for those with boyfriend problems (so does that mean become a hooker, girls, and he'll fail in love?) and Rebecca for those in a second marriage who feel haunted by the shadow of a previous partner (presumably you end up feeling that your husband may have been married to the most exquisite woman in the world but at least you don't have recurring dreams about bloody Manderley and Judith Ander-

son isn't hanging around). And what better time to achieve good karma than the In that lot there must be some sort of panacea for every phobia, neurosis and bad habit. A quick flick through Radio

Tunes supplies the answer. For thirtysomethings trying to deeide whether to have children or a career. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York puts forward the pros and cons concisely (girls, would you really want risk giving birth to a child like Macaulay Culkin?). Or do you feel shy and insecure about your performance in the discotheque? Pulp Fiction provides some useful hints and a step-by-step guide to asking that woman of your dreams to dance. Finding it difficult to achieve closure in that relationship? Watch Gone With The Wind. (which can also be combined for women hoping to pick up tips on how to set up their own sawmill business).

But just as experts warn that conventional treatment can harm as well as benefit you. potentially there are worrying consequences of watching the festive period when there are wrong film. How many people have chosen banking as a career—their head examined. more than 900 films on the telly.

্রা ় 🕖 🗨

under the impression Jim Carrey gave them that they get to wear a magic mask and meet Cameron Diaz? In years to come we could see an influx of cats in psychiatric wards feeling that they're never going to get on in the rat race after exposure to Tom and Jerry - The Movie. And giving up the veil to become a governess to a large brood of Austrians does not inevitably mean you get to marry Christopher Plummer.

Most worrying of all, are there even now hordes of people setting aside any hint of scepticism and roaming parties repeating in an annoying voice; "Life is like a box of chocolates Forrest. You never know what you're going to get." Social services are going to be picking up the bill in 30 years for those poor innocents exposed to Forest Gump. At the end of the day, that great movie maker himself Samuel Goldwyn would have a word for those seeking therapy through films: anyone who goes to see a shrink needs



Winter Sale



broadcaster: born Ramsgate, Kent 5 February 1920; Assistant Head, BBC Light Entertainment Group 1960-64; Head of Entertainment, London Weekend Television 1968-69; President, Johnson Society, Lichfield 1975-76; Rector, St Andrews University 1977-79; CBE 1980; married 1949 Polly McIrvine (one son, one daughter); died Thorpe, Surrey 2 January 1998.

Before Frank Muir and Denis Norden, scriptwriting was not seen as a profession, and in fact yond what they chose to describe as "a cottage industry" that is, two blokes in a room inventing humour. It's a far cry from the American "Ten writers, no waiting" approach. but has produced as much good comedy as the high-tech American method.

That it is as it is, is in many ways down to Muir and Norden. who proved that a scriptwriter

labourer".

In a way, Frank Muir was two people. A carefully honed foppishness, the pink bow tie, the lisp, the tweeds and the retired lieutenant-colonel manner, hid from most people the astute, creative and, above all, authoritative writer.

With Denis Norden, his long-term partner, both as writer and television and radio panellist, he penned some of the most memorable radio comedies. Breakfast With Braden, Take It From Here (from which The Glums sprang) and much else besides. Together they wrote for television Whack-O!, starring Jimmy Edwards, with whom Muir had a particular affinity, and, again for Edwards, The Seven Faces of Jim.

I suppose that for many viewers Muir will be remembered as the suave and beguiling team leader on the television panel game Call My Bluff where, whether in harness with Patrick Campbell or later with Arthur Marshall, and under the beady eye of Robert Robinson, he spun fantasies and elegant descriptions of obit has never really developed be-scure words, thus baffling his

opponents and viewers alike. He became, with Denis Norden, the (almost) ever-present member of the quartet which made the quarter-century or so of BBC Radio's My Word! and My Music and massively entertained a world-wide audience which rejoiced in the humour and the

erudition of those programmes. Later, also on radio, in the series Frank Muir Goes Into . . ., was more than, to use Frank a ragbag of comic moments ture tune. He was, in fact, more glittered with outrageous puns don . . . Moored!"

Muir's phrase, "a comedian's from the BBC archives, he held Jeeves than Wooster, usually the centre with unfaltering skill.

Behind the scenes of BBC Television, again with Denis put and was later head of comedy at the BBC before fustian, too. crossing over to ITV as head of Weekend Television, where, in spite of some flops, notably We Have Ways of Making You Laugh (which optimistic boast proved unfounded), he conjured up such long-running successes as Please Sir and On the Buses.

When the management team resigned en bloc in protest at the sacking of the programme controller, Cvril Bennett, Muir returned to radio and, in addition, became a skilful writer of children's books based on the character and behaviour of the Muir family dog, What-a-Mess. The first book, published in 1977, was followed by 16 other volumes describing in charming detail the adventures of this accidentprone Afghan hound.

The collections of My Word! anecdotes, reproducing Muir and Norden's tortuous puns, You Can't Have Your Kayak and Heat It (1973) being a typical example, sit happily on the shelves with other of his written works, including the massive The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose: from William Caxton to P.G.

Wodehouse (1989). In a way, Muir seemed like a Wodehouse character, a snufftaking clubman (the Garrick so brilliant was the wordplay, was his favourite watering hole) and a dandy, his style of dress being in a way his visual signa-

getting things right. His one novel, The Walpole Orange, published in 1993, was set in a West Norden, Muir advised the cor- End gentlemen's club and was, poration on their comedy out- to be honest, patchy. It had great moments, but touches of

His autobiography, A Kentish comedy at the newborn London Lad, published last autumn, went at once into the bestsellers' list. In it he recorded anecdotes of his childhood and his RAF service, which was spent largely in Iceland, where he was stationed as an aerial photographer. He commented, "When we had a plane we didn't

have a camera, and when we had a camera we didn't have a plane." But his natural gifts found expression in entertaining his fellow airmen and these blossomed after the war into a successful career in the professional world of scriptwriting.

For three years he was the Rector of St Andrews University, which he says was "spending three lovely years attending church with a terrific choir".

Muir, a devout Anglican, is quoted as saying: "I think there is some kind of after-life, but it's not pearly gates. I wish it to remain a mystery." - Barry Took

When I first came to England as a drama student and heard Frank Muir and Denis Norden's Take It From Here, I assumed I was listening to a radio adaptation of an S.J. Perelman piece, writes Dick Vosburgh.

Week after week, the film and again: takeoffs which ended the show

... Shakespeare shouting to the landlord of the Mermaid Tavern, "See what the boys in the buckram will havel" . . . Dracula saying to a potential victim, "Won't you join me in the oldfashioned vaults?" Or a New York gangster who - baving been told that the police have thrown a cordon around the area, stretching all the way down to the Staten Island ferry - exclaims: "You mean there's a ferry at the bottom of our cordon?" In another sketch, Sherlock Holmes said to Lady Baskerville, "Surely deep, deep down, your guardian has some ideas or theories about this spectral hound?" - only to be told, "Yes, there are theories at the bottom of my guardian."

In 1956 Muir and Norden were finally given the opportunity to deliver such extravagant puns in person, when the radio literary quiz My Word! took the air. Each would be asked to give. by the end of the programme. the origin of various quotations. The inventions by both men were brilliant, but my favourite was Muir's fandango around the song title "Come into the Garden, Maud". He told a sad story about joining a yacht club and falling madly in love with a member called Carmen. On hearing that his adored one and a yachtsman called Toothy Gordon had "sailed together into the harhour of matrimony and were moored together for life", he confessed that he could do nothing but sit and mutter again

"Carmen ... Toothy Gor-



'A cottage industry': Muir, left, with Denis Norden in 1954

Photograph: Popperfoto

Blue chips a

Helen Wills Moody

Helen Wills, tennis player: born Berkeley, California 6 October 1905; winner, Ladies Singles, American Lawn Tennis Championship 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931; winner, Women's Singles, English Lawn Tennis Championship 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938; winner, Ladies' Singles French Lawn Tennis Championship 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930; married 1929 dissolved 1937), 1939 Aidan Roark (marriage dissolved); died Carmel, California! lanuary 1998.

She came out of California, trained to be a tennis chamnion, determined to win the prizes of consequence in her sport. She was a private person performing on a public stage, playing the game with unerring accuracy and control, refusing to reveal her emotions to frequently outclassed and overwhelmed opponents. Above all else, Helen Wills Moody was a person who knew precisely what she wanted in life and achieved most of her goals with meticulous care for her craft and high intelligence, seldom looking back on anything she had done with

remorse or frustration. This remarkable American achieved on an astounding scale from the early 1920s until the late 1930s, producing a record



times in her native American Championships at Forest Hills (now known as the US Open), came through four times to win the French Championships in Paris, and captured eight singles titles on the fabled lawns of Wimbledon, where she was few could ever hope to equal or beaten only once in 56 matchsurpass. In that memorable es. She was unofficially ranked an uncommon courage and stretch of time, "Little Miss Pok- as the best player in the world

er Face" was victorious seven no fewer than nine times. At one stage between 1927 and 1933, she did not lose a single set, let alone a match.

But Helen Wills Moody was worthy of praise for more than the sum of her accomplishments. She set herself apart with the size and scope of her competitive appetite, demonstrating composure when it twice ap-

peared as if her career might be

Appendicitis abruptly curtailed her activities in 1926 when she was only 20, but she restored herself convincingly by the following year. Then, after a debilitating back injury kept her out of the game in 1934, she returned with complete conviction in 1935 to win her penultimate Wimbledon nearing the age of 33, she ruled at the All England Club for the cognoscenti had virtually given up on her.

who could drive the ball with more pace and depth off the ground than any of her rivals. She dominated her matches with both power and precision, cutting down her opponents by directing the ball rhythmically and relentlessly from corner to corner, forcing foes into mistakes by virtue of her extraordinary command of the court. The combination of her placid demeanour and her assertive style of play was what made her a champion of the highest order; neither the strategic framework of her game nor her supreme belief in herself could ever be called into question. As the revered New York Times writer Allison Danzig put it,

Power under control and the ability er woman on the courts were responsible for the rise of Miss Wills. The ability to mask her feelings, to ntain an inscrutable countenance

Wills Moody's upbringing surely had much to do with her successes later in life. Her father, Clarence Wills, was a surgeon who got her started with tennis when she was eight. Her mother. Catherine Anderson Wills, was a University of California graduate who played championship. Finally, in 1938, an even more crucial role in the evolution of this immensely driven woman. Mrs Wills was as last time when most of the undemonstrative as Helen, a quiet leader providing strength when it was most needed. She She was a baseline player attended all of Helen's tournaments from 1921 to 1930, and shared an unusually warm and close relationship with her daughter. Holen, too, attended the University of California.

> fleetingly at the time. "Art will be my life." Not surprisingly, she was an honour student, a Phi Beta Kappa who remarked of her time in the classroom: "I had a complete lack of interest in learning for the sake of knowing something. I was, in the truest sense of the word, a 'cup hunter' in the field of

learning to sketch and draw with

admirable skill, even remarking

scholarship." Be that as it may, she distinguished herself with her fine sketches, making drawings of many of the women she competed against. But her talent outside the confines of the tennis court did not stop there. As the New York Herald Tribune

recalled. Wills Moody could put her pen to useful purposes. writing respectable articles for the London newspapers in the

1930s. As Laney said: She did all right financially while abroad by writing for the London papers. I heard at the time what the fig-ure was for the pieces, but I have forgotten, although I still am able to report that tennis champions were paid at a much higher rate in those days for reporting tennis than regular tennis writers. In fairness to Miss Wills I must say that they were very well written pieces and I was assured that she wrote them herself, entirely without professional help. I was impressed with her literary talent. Clearly, however, she was most gifted when she held a racket in her hand, moving

of her career a few years ago. the 1947 Wimbledon champion Jack Kramer said: was convinced at one time - and things have changed with Martina Navratilova coming along to play so well on grass, with Steffi Graf looking for so long like a world beater, and with Monica Seles taking over with her new style of game – but for

players I have ever seen.
I played against Helen Wills, Helen Jacobs and Alice Marble when I was the US boys' champion. I felt I was quite a good player for a 15-year-old, but Helen was a very tough match for me while Jacobs and Marble who were also fine players were not up to her calibre. Later on I played mixed doubles with her when she was in her forties and it was hard

to believe how good she was. Remarkably, despite all of

resulted in a defeat. Facing Frenchwoman Suzanne Lenglen at Cannes in February 1926 for careers, Wills was beaten 6-3. 8-6 in what the renowned dress designer and authoritative critic Ted Tinling called "the first

and Bobby Riggs in 1973". The high drama of the occasion was justified in light of the greatness of the two competitors. They were universally regarded as the two greatest players of the first half of the with serenity and authority 20th century, and this conthrough the major champifrontation was a unique chaponships. In assessing the impact ter in their productive lives. The best of Wills Moody as a play-

er was certainly ahead of her while Lenglen's most dominant days were nearly over. In any case, recalling the moment of that match 60 years after it "The first thing I remember," the longest while I thought that He-len Wills Moody was right up there she said in 1986. is that my mother did not want me with Pauline Betz as the best woman

to go. My father didn't see much point in it either. I just don't know why I thought it was the end of the world to leave the University of California to go to the South of France. Why did I? I almost cried I wanted to go so much. I begged and begged, and looking back it doesn't make any sense at all. In any event, Helen Wills

Moody always handled her private life with dignity and with-

play, was the characteristic that correspondent Al Laney once her prodigious successes, the out any unnecessary fuss or exmost famous contest she played citement. She divorced Fred Moody, a stockbroker, in 1937 the incomparably charismatic after eight years of marriage. then married Aidan Roark, a film writer, two years later. the one and only time in their This second marriage lasted much longer, but she was divorced from Roark in the early 1970s.

By then, still living in her big show-business match in the beloved California, she had behistory of tennis, the sort of pre- come something of a recluse, decessor for Billie Jean King but her friends and former associates understood her need to isolate herself. "In the latter stages of her life," recalled Kramer.

she just happened to want to be alone and that was line. Nothing could disturb her when she wanted something. She would make up her mind that she was going to do something in a certain way, and that was the way it usually was. She was a very nice person, very considerate, and a quality

Ted Tinling had seen this side of Helen Wills Moody long before the end of her life, and he correlated her attitude happened, Wills Moody was to her striking appearance. amusingly irreverent about it all. "With the exception of Garbo." explained Tinling,

> I have seen all the best-looking women in the world face-to-face and, in the beauty stakes, Helen Wills was very definitely in the top league. She had a flawless complexion with her facial bone structure and her finely chiselled features were reminiscent of a piece of screne classical sculpture. In dramatic contrast, she had the Marlene Dietrich technique of a conversation.
>
> She was certainly the Garbo of

tennis, always wanting to be alone and away from her fellow competitors.

- Steve Flink

Birthdays

TODAY: Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former President, National Savings Committee, 91; Mr David Atherton, music director, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, 54; Mr John Bam-borough, former Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 77: Mr Michael Barratt, television presenter, 70; Mr Victor Borge, musician and come-dian, 89; Mr Keith Brookman, Gen-Confederation, 60; Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, 60: Professor Sir. Bryan Carsberg, Secretary General, International Accounting Standards Committee, 59; Mr Fran Cotton, former rugby international, 50; Sir Alastair Forbes, former judge, 90; Mr Mel Gibson, actor, 42; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, 73; Sir Roy Harding, educa-tionist, 74; Mr John Paul Jones, rock musician and producer, 52: Admiral Sir Michael Layard, former Second Sea Lord, Chief of Naval Per-sonnel, 62; Miss Anya Linden (Lady sonnet, 62; Miss Anya Linden (Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover), former ballerina, 65; Sir George Martin, chairman, Air group, 71; Mr Eric Martlew MP. 49; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 79; Mr Sieg-mund Nissel, former member of the Amadeus Quartet, 76; Sir John Riddell, former royal equerry, 64; Miss Eirlys Roberts, former Deputy Director, Consumers' Association, 87; Mr Graham Ross Russell, Chairman, Securities Institute, 64; Mr Robert Steedman, architect, 69; Mr Matthew Taylor MP, 35: Mr John Thaw, actor,

56; Mr David Vine, BBC sports commentator, 62.

TOMORROW: Mrs Jackie Ballard and concert singer, 61; Miss Dyan Can-non, actress, 59; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, founding editor of the Independent Magazine, 58: Capt Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss Bt, Chief of the Clan Colquboun, 82; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 68; Mr Alan Dyer, former Chief Constable, Bedford-shire, 64; Professor Keith Hancock, economist, 63; Lt-Cdr Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 95; Professor Brian Josephson, physicist, 58; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Kyle, 55; Professor Lance Lanyon, Principal, Royal Veterinary College, 54; Mr John McLaughlin, blues and jazz gui-tarist, 55; Miss Margaret Marshall, concert and opera singer, 49; Mr Mick Mills, footballer, 49; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxer, 63; Mr Nicholas Payne, Director, Royal Opera, Cov-ent Garden, 53; Baroness Pitkeathley, chief executive. Carers National Association, 57: Mr Timothy Rix, publisher, 64; Miss Barbara Rush, actress 68: Mrs Phyllis Starkey MP, 50: Sir Alan Thomas, chairman, Firth Holdings plc, 55; Mrs Audrey Wise MP, 63; Miss Jane Wyman, actress, 84.

Changing of the Guard
TODAY The Household Coulty Mounted Regulated
Household Coulty Mounted Regulated
House the National Coulty of Horse Guards
House the National Web Guards house the Oscort
Guard, in Buckington Police, 11-35 has, bond provoked by the With Learn's TOPHORNOON The Household
Hold Coulty Mounted Regiment means the Queen's
Like Guard as Horse Guards, 10 km.

FAITH & REASON

The cross which falls across the cradle

Christmas has not yet come for the Eastern Church, which celebrates it next week. It will be an altogether more muted affair than that in the West. Andrew Walker, a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, explains why.

As Western Christians prepare for Epiphany it might come as a surprise to learn that the Eastern Orthodox Church makes at least as much of it, if not more, than Christmas. This is partly a question of history. Christmas is the last of the great liturgical feasts to be incorporated into the Church's calendar. The Nativity was not celebrated in any major way before the third century, and the 25th of December not generally fixed as Christmas Day until the end of the

brating Epiphany as one of its great feasts, second in importance only to

Over time Christmas came to equal Epiphany in significance but it never overwhelmed it or shunted it aside. Culturally, also, the Orthodox Church has never capitulated to the consumerism of Western Xmas. St Nicholas has never transmuted into the Father Christmas of Western Europe, or into the Santa Claus of North America.

It is true that bishops in the Russian church will sometimes stand in for St Nicholas and distribute, or at least hand over, presents to Orthodox children after Christmas Day but this is in no sense linked to the notion of a commercial festive season: presents, if they exist at all, are modest and more a gesture of generosity - of Christian largesse - than giving children their "heart's desire". There are certainly fourth century. By that time the local festive customs, such as the eat-

Eastern Church was already cele- ing of carp on Christmas Day, for example, but on the whole Christmas is a thoroughly muted affair compared to its Western counterpart.

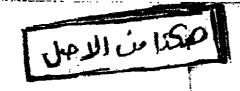
But perhaps the really interesting differences between Eastern and Western Christmas are theological. Eastern theology is governed by the Easter Event. The "joy to the world" of Western Christmas is centred in Eastern liturgy on the great Easter shout of "Christ is Risen" and the affirmation of the people that "he is risen indeed". Christmas in looking forward to Easter shares in that joy but also foreshadows the tragedy of the fact that the child born to be king also came to die. Even in one of his famous hymns to the Nativity, St Ephrem (c306-373) writes of the child who will defeat death by death: "Let us thank him who killed death by his dying." And in a famous Russian icon the angel Gabriel carries a cross to the Nativity where it casts a all eternity is God".

sobriety is reflected also in the fact that the great feast is approached through fasting until the day of rejoicing arrives. (In an age of conspicuous consumption we might call this a political statement.) But perhaps the most interesting feature of Orthodox Christmas is that it is an experience that the Church keeps to itself. It is almost as if Christmas is a secret. When the Holy One of God entered the world as a vulnerable mewling babe, only Joseph wise men had any inkling what earth shattering event had taken place. God was incarnate in a mystery that was not yet for public unveiling. Indeed as Orthodox tradition puts it there was no room for Mary and Jesus in the inn, so, as human society had rejected the mother literally pregnant with divinity, "the earth offereth the cave to him ... who from

And it is against this background and whose reign shall last for ever.

This joy tinged with sadness and of public rejection, of a hushed celebration by the people of God, of a confident confidentiality by those loyal to the Christ-child, that the great celebration of Epiphany makes sense Christmas may belong to the inner life of the Church, but Epiphany is the time when the secret is out, not merely shouted from the rooftops but confirmed from the heavens. As the kontakion for Epiphany says of Christ, "Thou art manifested today to the whole world." This public revelation and Mary, some shepherds, and a few is not only of Jesus as the God-Man prefiguring his passion by dying and rising again from the waters of baptism, but of God heing manifested in triunity as Father, Son, and Holy

At Christmas the Church guards the boy-king from the prying eyes of the merely curious and the enemies of God, but at Epiphany the Church confesses that the man-king is lord of lords whose kingdom is now at hand



Blue chips advance into the new year amid light trading

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Shares started the year on a interest provided sufficient the Stock Exchange rethink, division is due to be an- soon-possibly, if Westminster high note with Footsie rising incentive to push prices ahead. 58 points to 5,193.5. But the Turnover was an insignificant half-day session at the end of 130.7 million shares and the the festive fortnight seemed session was dubbed a "waste unreal, with few stock market of time" by some market men. men in attendance and little investment interest.

Even so, Footsie's display was in sharp contrast to the less than on New Year's Eve opening day of last year when the index fell 61.1. Then, of points before the Stock Excourse, it went on to hit a succession of new highs, confounding most observers.

As Richard Kersley of BZW points out: The strength of the bull run was missed by everyone. Most observers, ourselves included

Footsie gave ground in the last few minutes of trading. The fall, 10.3 points, was much when the index dropped 31.8 change adjusted some share

was produced. revalued upwards, was one of and Marks & Spencer 5.5p to the few financial fallers. It lost 604.5p. 4p to 760p. Most, reflecting expectations of further take.

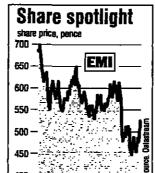
had the audacity to recover all its imposed loss - gaining 40p to 1,095p. Other insurances higher included Prudential could run into monopoly terest on takeover hopes in-Corporation and Legal &

General. Retailers drew some comfort from the John Lewis trading statement which showed higher December sales bolstered by a late rush.

The January sales got off to prices and a revised calculation a good start with double figure gains. It was enough to Halifax, one of the shares edge Next 16p higher to 708p

nounced this month. Cash clearance can be obtained, rich Associated British Foods one of the generators. is thought to be interested but problems.

Southern Electric, the only ened 18p to a 524p peak. It is even Whitbread. expected to attract a predator



Others to attract modest included Reckitt & Colman and Greenalls. R&C is regarded as quoted survivor of the 12 a likely Unilever acquisition; regional electricity companies Greenalls is seen as a possible floated seven years ago, hard- target for Allied Domecq or

There is a suggestion Allied and Bass could make a joint bid with Allied settling for the pubs and wholesaling operation and Bass the hotels. Any Whitbread assault would probably herald the end of the group's brewing involvement.

TAKING STOCK

constituents. Logica hardened

20p to a 1,177.5p peak and

Sherwood International also

hit a high with a 40p gain to

572.5p. Misys, the sector's

biggest company, put on 12.5p

85p. Channel Hotels and

Properties and associates now

control almost 30 per cent of

the capital, Last year CNC, the

old Clarke Nickolls & Coombs

sweets business, disclosed a

mystery takeover approach.

One name in the frame was

Wiggins, the property group,

But the bidder walked away.

Wiggins closed at a 13.25p

CNC Properties firmed to

to 1,842.5p, also a record.

With a few exceptions football club shares have failed to score with investors. One of the worst performers is Loftus Road, controlled by entertainment tycoon Chris Wright. The shares, seemingly weighed down by a steady stream of small sell orders. fell 2.5p to 29.5p, a new low. A few months after being floated at 72p in October

1996 they touched 106.5p. The loss-making group has ambitious expansion plans but its two operations, the Queens Park Rangers football club and Wasps rugby club, have failed to perform, with QPR stuck in the middle reaches of Nation-

	17年32 17年32 17 4 17	· .	observers, ourselves included, began the year with a worried view of bond markets and saw equities in a similar light."	ahead. Abbey National, rarely	£375.5m, put on 9.5p to 954p. The brewer is thought to be	550	Nycomed Amersham led the Footsie leader board with a 100p gain to 2,250p. EMI, the	peak. Enviromed, the healthcare group where bidders are	wide Division One and Wasps near the bottom of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.
			The opening advance looked fragile. A handful of buy orders, very little selling,	Insurances pushed ahead. General Accident, lowered by	take over. Ladbroke rose 4p to 268p. Dalgety firmed to 279.5p.	450	showbiz group, gained 22p to 530p, reflecting a new year tip. The arrival of an Infor- mation Technology sector con-	thought to lurk, fell 1.5p to 11p and Shield Diagnostic, last year's top performing share, gave up 22.5p to 695p on the	Head bunter Whitehead Mann climbed 18.5p to a 217.5p peak; there is talk of a
			more new year tips and futures	40p on New Year's Eve after	The sale of its food ingredients	CHOSALLMAMALD	tinued to spur most of the 88	inevitable take profits advice.	US strike.
	Ajcoholic Beverages	373 Z b +250 4a 51a mmo 374 3	Low Stock Price Chg Yid P/E Code 15 Finelist Gp	SI week Bigh Low Stock Price Chy Yid P/ECode Schractive Industries 2 8 August 12 816 D	52 week High Low Scoot: Price Chg Yjst PPECode High Low Scoot: Price Chg Yjst PPECode 52 W Firs Green P400 -0.50 2.5 - 260 10 % Firs Tokig H1.00 467 2.0 206 Firs Tig 2.450 - 1.2 - 2.00	777 148 Broshova (m. 178 EA at LA CA	8 840 H00 Europeaney 582.50 - 4.0 177 H	on Prices are in sterling except where stated. The	yield is the latest rivelve months' declared gross di- price/earnings (PFE) rado is the shareprice
	26 38 Balcar(+12) 39,000 36 4 Bandero Dez 4,50 60 44 Dago 50 80 Geomorago 30 30 HagadilarCo 30 50 HagadilarCo 30 50 HagadilarCo	1	55 Med Howere 575.00 +5.00 24 77.3 6000 56 Non Gp 107.50 - 5.9 7.4 1997 56 Nocheape 19.50 - 7.5 16.7 75.21 7 SA led 83.50 - 4.5 6.7 5449	47 30 Arcon Ind 31.003574.0 364 [35.07 8480cm 65.50 44.50 262] 22 Q De Bears (4)	202 Se Fins West Piter 98,00 +0.50 _ 4075 575 776 Rean American 549,50 +0.50 0 _ 1444 575 776 Rean Assa 542,5 +0.25 _ 0 20 77 Rean Assa 542,5 +0.25 _ 0 20 77 Rean Assa 543,5 +0.25 _ 0 20 79 Rean Chamber 475 0,025 _ 6406 40 87 Rean Chamber 475 0,042,5 _ 6406	1 299 229 R/T Cap Poor 294.50 +2,00 08 _ 75 0 09 48 Schröf Assigne 51.50 _ 12 _ 48 0 49 88 Schröf her Gweth 144.50 +0.50 49 _ 40	7] 235 456 GWR Group 86.505 - 19 2a.9 7 11 288 209 Homes 26.000 - 5.0 22.2 25 5 65 201 Home Court 482.50 - 15 23.1 23 7 66 25 185 C	divided by lest year's earnings per share, excluding to Other details: Ex rights; v. Ex-dividend; a Ex-company Gite Prices are Bloomberg Generics.	g excraordinary items but including exceptionals. lit is Suspended: p Pardy Pakt: np Niir Pakt. "AIM. Source: Bloomberg
	Banks, Merchant stre Cos Ses 55.00 97.78 (asset Gr 75.01 77.78 (hebrs 25.9) 65.45 (asset) 620.00 67.78 (broks NV 77300 58.720 Stroder NV 77300	+850 28 840 2880 9 5 +100 60 K7 35-0 472 8 17 201 2767 279 8	Middless 5.00 - 2.5 8.3 890 / 0 Northin 74.00a - 4.0 8.4 3.85 / 5 Northantier 279.00a - 2.0 1.6 k.3 294 / 6 Partos Gp 279.50 - 1.00 3.4 8.4 920 / 7 Pandrasos 26.00 - 4.8 8.4 980 / 7 Pandrasos 26.00 - 4.8 8.4 980 /	77 / A Managoroma 9, 100 - 9, 100 20,4 1,8 3860 25 125 RB Planing 55,00 +4,00 20,4 1,8 3860 25 125 Rb Planing 75,00 +6,00 4,4 5,1 659 60 397 West Balle Ba 44,50 - 4,6 5,2 MR2 18 9 Wests Deep 10, 11,61 - 0	ESI ID4 Firms Emg/Miss 16,50 +1.25	34 274 Seet Inver 225.50 +2.00 24	8 D45 950 Metal Balleon 1020.00 - 26 297 25 2 28 130 Metand Ind News 20.00 - 26.6 10 4 227 180 Histor Group 197.00 +0.50 3.0 10.0 6 8 770 552 More Group 756.00 +2.50 25 35.8 35	To access Regi-Time You will hear the current FTSE 100 in You will hear the current FTSE 100 in You will hear the current FTSE 100 in You will hear the current beautiful to the current FTSE 100 in You will hear the current beautiful to the current FTSE 100 in You will hear the current beautiful to the current beau	- 101. UG71 - ZUI ZUU Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200. Index followed by a Scock Market Summary Report. Ime Share Price by kaying * plus a 4-digit code' from
	26. 165 Streets 7 Ord 850.00 16 15: Super 8 Fried 1950 16 16: Wincress 400.00 Backet, Retail	59 44 408 22	M Premier Parmell 440.50 _ 3.5 72.1 (2091) Proband Ge 100.00 _ 5.1 27.0 A/08	Todd Producers 10 250 Acaroshivada 257 50 +250 5.1 27 1440 1 47 27 27 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	167 Dh Remine Ur. 16450 _ 42 _ 5248	12 76 3651 73 3605 1600 *0 30 40	8 855 88 Reed Ind 608.00 -2.00 2.9 22.9 0 17 70 548 Sox Med Gp 970.00 - 1.7 10.2 14 17 10 548 Sox Med Gp 970.00 - 1.7 10.2 14 18 10 Scootish Radio 375.00 - 1.1 10.7 16 18 11 10 Scootish Radio 375.00 - 1.1 10.7 16	To get a Membership Number to set-up your of 729-8288 (during business hours). For help with the service, including the Portfol	Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 0171- Bio facility, call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288.
Photograph Foreign	研究 Red Felind 1985の を対象 Sed Seed Seed Seed	+5.50 _ 2087.4		70 244 Booker 37/50 - 9,4 - 110 27/444 Cadhury-Schw 625.00 +11.50 3.2 28.8 106 25.250 Currs Maley 255.00x -1.50 5.x 8.3 2520	61 39 Rem Indem 4400 -0.50 - 1406 72 6 Rem Ind W; 130 -0.25 - 126 25 C9 Fern Japan 146.50 -0.25 - 166 59 10 Rem Japan 146.50 -0.55 - 474 408 386 Fern Fern 387.50 -0.00 -0.5 - 250 15 77 Fern Nuksept 7 400 -0.25 01 250 409 322 Fern Nuksept 8 400 -0.25 01 10 - 162 48 108 Fern Stress 18 100 -0.25 01 10 - 162 48 108 Fern Stress 18 100 -0.25 01 10 - 162	PV 009 Tropi Englists	8 8 2 Taylor Nelson 950 + 2.15 1 22 74 1	Seaq volume: 130,7m trades 19,127	Gilts index: n/a
	25 125 125 125 125 125 125 125 125 125 1	*5.00 2.2 25.6 63% 246 45 *5.00 3.7 67 802 24 90 *5.00 3.4 52 32% 140 140 *5.00 2.4 52 32% 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 140 140	8 Cocast 294,90x - 6.0 93 FW - Grangban 06.50 - 6.2 8.5 948 9 2 HarrissáCros HU.00 - 79 87 5220 9 1 Lonrho 94.00 +1.00 a) 227 7038 2 Michael Russel 86,00r - 8,50 5.3 (2.1 733 4 9 Result Pour 5,50 5.0 5.3 (2.1 733 4	09 80 Finiter 100.50 - 41 1459 124*** (70° 250 Genes 404.00 - 27 340 4056 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 2	51 65 Rem Wid Zero 47 5 0 0 . 5448 27 50 Rem Wid Lits 17700 - 49 - 0 7 56 Rem Wid Lits 17700 - 49 - 0 0 85 FAC Engris 27 0 10 0 587 57 123 FAC Empte 87 0 10 10 589 58 FAC Empte 1755 1175 17 05	64 E7 Undervalle Auss. H800 +125 20 224 670 U.55 refer Con 223 56 +250 380 H4 U7 Value & Income 64 30 1 3 3 3 45 30 Warrantskiel 40.75 +025 67 De Jall Willen No. 20.50 +100 2.6 328 451 233 Yearsin Cap 450.50 +150 366	0 85 662 8F 8600 - 800 1.4 7.5 6 0 109 80 8emah Casrol (7000 - 100 54 b.5 10 0 47 130 Shel 4500 - 500 1.5 20 7 39 5 Oil Exploration & Production	Stock Vel Scock Vel	Stock Vol Stock Vel or Smithkine Beech 1.99m Hinnes: 1.58m m Signet 1.85m Ladbroke Grp 1.46m m Lloyds TSB 1.85m Gas Welfsonse 1.156m or Gen Blac 1.75m BAY Incis 1.30m
Ma HARRY TO THE STATE OF	940 647 Base 954.00 275 03 Bertonwood 50.50 56 03 Cey Cer Res. 155.00 36 536 Compan 761.00	+ 4550 3.8 33.8 1005 FM 167 - 5.8 (31 139 75 25 - 2.3 25.5 104 75 25 + 2.00 1.4 2.4 4.5 76 27 + 2.00 1.4 2.8 407 48 33 5. 37 68 477 48 33 5. 37 68 477 48 33 5. 37 68 477 88 33	2 Sensitive	10 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18	76 OF FACTOR 15.50 +1.5 10 Cbs 53 54 FACTOR 15.50 +1.5 10 Cbs 53 54 FACTOR 15.50 +1.00 18 Cbs 55 GC FACTOR 15.50 +1.00 18 Cbs 56 FACTOR 15.50 +1.5 10 50 FACTOR 15.50 +1.5 10 50 FACTOR 15.50 +1.50 10	Eel 797 Arrosus De0.00 -25.00 2.0 P.8 575 97 28 Affection, 27.50 -0.50 4.5 9.2 695 98 Arrosum 60.00 -25.5 240 466 107 688 Arros Villa, 77.50 - 38.00 78 Affective Town 89.00 -75.4 1.00	88 51 Ambres 63.00 +1.50 - 59 7 524 527 528 Bornes 4200 - 0.8 55.2 76 6 31 Buts Res 1.25 - 160.0 36 8 57 95 Calm Engy 49.00 - 160.0 36 9 7 H Data Pets 22.50 - 70	Tamarts 2.53m Dageo 2.03	1.72m Srit Telecom 1.29m 93.0 Up 57.5 00.5 Up 65.0
erm Studie de la filia la discolar de la filia de la f	287 231 Gabby Flow 2404.50 586 30 Greenik Cop 444.50 770 90 Greenik King 744.00 238 53 Grosneroy kins 87.50 204 297 Chez Germit 262.50 279 284 Hundre 2 H - 279.00	+550 47 117 128 +550 47 117 128 128 291 740 Elect - 46 514 576 40 12 - 14 228 60 35 93 - 12 29 908 63 42	is Br Energy 42.50x 150 42 5.9 454 G	as Distribution 05 Compace 9.75 •225 _ 28 • 56 00 6C 28 00 •400 62 69 724	TE He GT pan H300 *100 0a 207 CT SI Gart Fing Per Si Si O *0.000 04 *695 Per Si O *0.000 07 *695 Per S	76 22 Sunden Les 76.50 2.4 27-6 22 Sunden Les 28.00 42 6.9 565 29 66 Capeal Corp 58.50 6.4 25.2 bit 48.22 Caspain Group 23.75 - 48.22 Caspain Group 23.75 - 3.76 bit 48.25 23.75	/ 05.29 pcx (3)	18 10000 548.7 Up 33.2 Clase St 19 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	i -
matrical of North Artists in the last last Account the 1999 of Element but 1999	40 30 Receded (4) 37 50	32 K1 6809 85 56 30 0.0 026 59 32 30 93 429 59 32 17 67 647 526 32 31 429 686 68	6 PowerCem 887.00 +25.00 40 2.6 6021 p 0 Scot Hydro 904.00 +1.00 45 H 9 6027 p 0 Scottsh Per 540.00 +2.00 44 H2 6028 M 9 Southern S4 00 +18.00 5.7 04 608 M 1 Th Esseng Gp 678.000 +6.00 2.5 ESS	86 90 Care UK #4607 _ 11 84 827 -	251 54 - See Con Co. 74,50 75, C9 05 Ger Con In . 9,00 . 114 . 700 US 57 German Smir . 91,50 - 125 1.3 . 284	377 235 fars Loruse 300 50 450 34 54 720	8 58 35 Premier Oil 57 50 +0.25 3 12.2 13 0 155 390 Ranger Oil 405 00 +10,000 = 25	3 H3 94 Hambro Cury 0450 30 E4 57 30 529 397 Hambros Tu 37.50 30 E4 57 40 55 Hampton Tu 3.00 - 29 585 389 Helical Barr Shisson 1.9 Fe 58	25 25 27 277
	765 567 ScrideNew 5 7H(0)	-150 17, N.D. M21 24 Ch +200 53 15 4777 49 30 - 07 387, 6236 58 104 - 760 34 75 1498 254 40 - 55 107 506 383 205 -1000 30 727 307 458 259	Acres (BSR) 107.00 +0.50 1.9 12.4 1092 1 BECC - 97.50 -1.50 91 - 100 1 BECK 240.00 - 5.7 8.9 169 1 Bownstorpe 78.50 - 3.5 16.0 His 1 Callung 5.50 - 252 1	5 94 Gata lad 94.00 -0.50	1 1.	rg we don't just	723 S87 Caledonia 730 CDS +5 00 33 07 11 -04 Sa5 Carries 405 00 -220 2.7 238 85 -265 F9 Chas Taylor 233 30 -21 -8 -60 440 Edna Fo Hgm 407 30 +100 a8 8.3 20 -80 809 ECHo MgAEopl 847 30 -33 P6 5 6 9 3 Echo 33 0 -33 P6 5	# 412 Lish 8 Assoc 1000 _ 28 _ 25 18 94 Lish Mer Sec 02,00x - 250 55 108 48 3 84 Dt Helday Secs 10250 _ 52 173 68 7 530 224 Mehre East 77 50 - 13 148 8 20 ESI Meneral 2150 + 050 _ M4 55	40 44 11 Proudinox 40.50 - 1.50
Age (Cattern Carrier) A septiminal for a consequence of the tent attention of the Cattern Ca	#7 91 AMEC 19800 19 78 Amey 450.00 726 95 American Sec. 777 90	- 566 920 538 - 250 3.3 17.7 1899 750 285 -0.50 4.5 107 1389 246 - 2.8 201 2570 4498 255 - 2.8 201 2570 4498 255	Calcorda: 79.00h +0.25 2.2 kJ 652 15.2 kG	0 225 Scholl 25900 - 14 - 5-6 0 263 Scholl 25900 - 12 05 39 9 M Shelt Chape 65.00 -225 - 54 8 KG SmithShigh 80.75 + 125 19 47 40 7 40 Tepad Libe 450 - 1.00 - 525 5 24 Un-Chem 36.50 - 25 29 632 8 207 Weam Hore 84.00 - 0.50 23 24 687	make mste	ory every day.	45 H0 Exploration Co. 372.50 . 37 10.5 40.4 10 G carness P. 31.50 . 07 119 9 140.0 10.5 Hend 182.50 . 39 22.3 22.3 29. 20 Intern Capazi 89.20 Intern Capazi 89.20 - 40.50 51 0.4 20 10.5 Hend 182.50 . 10.0 41 29. 62. 49. 400 10.4 foring 80.500 - 10.0 44 29. 62. 49. 400 10.4 foring 80.500 - 10.0 47 0.2 22.	7 28 4/2 rode 6000 - 1.5 7-3 Jr. 7 28 7 4 7 27 7 27 28 7 4 7 27 7 27 28 7 4 7 27 7 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	33 1 45 328 00 F00ert valuers 3d 30 2 20 214 M00 31 1 45 328 R064 5 N 34250 2 20 214 M00 32 30 30 30 50 50 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 657 33 30 529 50 50 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
ge types of the com- consists of the field	8 9 kartista 53,50) 78 22 Sarrant Dev 53,50) 20 55 Salasar \$4,50 79 30 Schway 125,50 23 9 Balwaych 1950 79 50 Barkelov 57,00	150 12 234 3572 306 300 - 15 75 4063 28 9 - 49 9.7 BD 54 365 - 51 104 105 45 45 - 35 104 105 45 202 - 78 5779 49 338		Ousehold Goods 2 63 Ampung 52.50 _ 2.4 6.3 536 0 90 Alta	Treal is	205	230 7a London Pacific Pa_50 0.50 38 300 Pa 14 Bb Loth Scot Bb 84 00 -0.50 3 * 200 Pa 14 Bb Loth Scot Bb 84 00 -0.50 3 * 200 Pa 14 Bb Loth Scot Bb 14 Bb Loth Scot	7 77 106 Rugby Frances \$750 - 19 - 85 7 65 9 Sanith Gordon 9750 - 0.50 cl 202 M 10 05 9 Sanith 17207 + 0.50 13 9 A 76 10 05 9 Sanith 17207 + 0.50 13 9 A 76 10 05 9 Sanith 17207 + 0.50 13 13 44 46 10 178 24 Sough Ests 34 00 + 0.50 13 28 7 16	70 (#3) Select Approx 558.00 - 1.00 (0.7 3.7 3.95) 10 (#86 0.05 Serra Gp #875.5 +5.00 (7.30 5.95) 184 18 (80 625 Serra Gp #875.5 +5.00 (0.5 4.81 184 18 (80 625 Serra Gp #875.5 +5.00 - 1.2 2.1 7.70 15 (55 78 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 17 (37 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 18 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 19 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 +0.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (40 38 Servard led 572.50 (1.0 74.8 208 10 (
Section of the sectio	St 10 CALA 127.50	55 45 880 46 65 34 466 986 338 78 24 10 709 228 16 50 127 104 56 288 46 82 3672 228 42 \$100 38 94 721 9 34 20 41 205 185 34 20	PRIT less 207.50 -1.50 3.1 0.2 7742 0 1 Coderd less 209.00 -2.50 3.3 94 0.60 2 Peak 79.50 -4.50 7.3 8.2 0 2 Peak 79.50x - 4.2 8.5 5.08 8	5 455 Churchal China 45750 _ 13 # 4 154	N. N.	6:	446 NO 6811 TOOM 25 81 NO	9 44 % TB 9 92.5 - 22.2 354 90 tot 100p Exams 97.56 - 17 510 lbg 1	22 236 CS Subgroup 23.50 +1,00 25 Hz 774 5 211 CS Sus Pau 25.00 = 13 9 6 299 7 90 50 Torre 88.50 = 30 701 973 54 75 77 UDO 90.00 = 69 65 389 76 20 5 84 Vgs Gp 27.50 = 83 93 446 89 25 84 Vgs Gp 27.50 = 30 8.5 394 78 20 25 Warner Hard 25.50 = 23 10.2 390 25 20 25 Warner Hard 25.50 = 23 10.2 390
t de la companya de l	100 EF Januar 400 EO: 273 NG Kaller 50.00 1	- 22 63 220 322 20 - 43 91 2272 380 238 - 4550 24 21 4 2253 222 50 - 4200 20 260 7554 225 56 - 4200 32 02 7 972 42 227 - 4050 32 02 994 49 49 49	Peter 42,59	6 91 jpyss	t mar i c		785 570 API Group: \$60.00 _ 2.6 lb.0 lb.0 208 61 Anp Vegns Ap. lb050 -0.50 53 U.3 Dt. 74 68 Barth Press Gp	50-46 Brake Bros 57300 _ 23 86 85 57 99 Budgern 56-50 -0.25 31 0.1 35 57 89 Farepai 20.50 -250 24 86 46	4 Wasman Par 4.50 _ 5.0 1.6 0 10 10 10 10 15 W6F Group 97.50 _ 12 81 0 Telecommunications
2.3	20 67 Manders) 56.50 38 28 MeApon A D4.50 30 96 McCardodS (2.55a (25 68 Mongo Seda) 74.50 -38.36 Mangon 25.50 -48.15 Review (98.50	- 1.00 50 74 2567 80 48 - 65 0.5 697 306 75 - 050 13 9.5 889 0.5 91 - 200 3.2 0.3 605 287 70 - 20 703 4460 287 76	Teleport 900 - 37 - 469 / 2 - 11G V059 + 1.00 5.0 0.5 0 0.5 0.5 0	8 200 Pico A 200.00 _ 12 99 752 6 10 75	Yes, BLOOMBERG is historical financial analysis. But with the real-time power of		107 (49 Bosmore Int) 76 90 1 14 11 30 16 49 49 16 49 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	5 18 50 Fylies 500 - 193 5 50 5 295 035 Gregs 200 00 - 21 30 225 6 036 77 leebed 03350 51 10.1 04 7 354 23 kert Stee 200 00 - 86 104 03 7 354 23 kert Stee 200 0 - 10 20 7 03	0 Mi 2 Gen Cable 8150 490 45.59 bonco 0.50 (-150 240 7 77.55 Charge 267.00 300 240 30 CS 2 Teleffess 70.00 202 50 CS 2 Teleffess 70.00
Reserved to the second	16 50 Proming 17.50% 50 57 Subtree Gp 16.500 50 57 Subtree Gp 16.500 54 55 Suptrames 18.500 55 55 Suptrames 18.500 55 55 Suptrames 18.500 55 55 Suptrames 18.500 55 57 Suptrames 18.500 55 57 Suptrames 18.500 55 57 Suptrames 18.500	- 45 BJ 7702 88 38 38 31 11 DJ 554 40 504 628 554 400 8 40 75 JJ 56 40 75 40 7	Vision 1820 1824 - 1825 Vision 1825 1827 Vision 1825 1827 Vision 1825 1827 Vision 1825 1827 Vision 1825 - 1827 Vision 1825 Vision	N 57 Seallowfield 22.50 45 87 394 8 86 Vymar 1755 5.1 99 364 7 40 Walter Gillack 46.50 100 93 327 7 65 Water Wade 80.50 *0.50 2792 353 8 SULTAINCE	Up-to-the -minute. Functionali decisions. From the one sy resources to keep you on	ity to lead you to did it formed is termed in the state of the world's manager.	238 86 Ferguson 80 00 _ 86 6.2 15 43 TR Feed Group 54 50 _ 76 12 5 30 86 13 Feedus 55 50 _ 32 11 58 86 13 Feedus 55 50 _ 32 11 58	50107 Fero 50100 4500 27 20 15 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	0 Textules & Apparel 7 (#6 78 Asmostra W 08.50 _ 5.9 & 5.0 097 7 (#6 78 Asmostra W 08.50 _ 5.5 097 6 20. 00 Alled Text
	B.S. Vibroplant. 64.90h B.S. Whanberser 25.00h A.Z. Washary 25.00h A.Y. Wiggen G.36 Si. 46 Wilson C. 56.00 55.26 Wangey G. 106.00	7.9 - 7779 98 278 2.3 6.4 005 179 26 2.4 0.5 005 179 26 2.6 0.5 005 179 26 2.7 0.8 5462 209 40 4.9 07.3 5004 12.20 4.5 02.1 605 102.5	7 AST 27 250 - 45 94 254 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5	07 % Aspertuces 0450 0.2 008 08 08 08 08 08 08	22 mods		(9 T) Pri Holdings 74.50 - 4.5 9.7 35. Pri Hel Mactarian Bri 10 - 11 HA 20 1091 907 Prostrations 1000 00 +2000 08 40.5 399 80 HJ Print HA 20 - 4.5 19 178 10 Bri 10 Print Chabum 26.50 - 13 8.6 647	251 DA Selection 200,000 + 1,000 - 85. 294 251 DA Selection 175.50 - 42 03 699 250 Da Adlect Carpetes 177.50 - 5.3 40 02.5 267 SS Allect Carpetes 175.50 + 0.50 18 77.0 730 369 TS Allectic 1 36.50 - 8.1 03 257 BB Austra Reed 188.50 - 4.5 0.3 087	9 258 86 Deview Gp 2000 - 24 779 R99 6 Dp AP RCG 5500 - 250 255 0 D A Hurtsone Gp 9500 - 63 - 630 7 R Dp 255 Hoong P 25450s - 38 82 229 1 R Dp 259 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 229 1 R Dp 269 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 250 1 R Dp 269 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 250 1 R Dp 269 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 250 1 R Dp 269 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 250 1 R Dp 269 Jones Serd 2550 - 45 M2 250
gar til sen er	380 747 EPE Indus 338.00k	49 24 203 202 24 54 HJ 605 88 6 47 25 498 996 67 450 46 HB 367 794 89		26 53 jard Lloyd Tho 19.00 _ 7.0980 0 6533 ;	25 78 Gord Add Smile 100 90 4350 - 100 188 77 Gord Smile 118 800 40 75 0.5 Mile 119 77 Gord Smile 118 70 400 40 75 0.5 Mile 119 70 Gord Ord 48.00 40 75 0.5 Mile 110 0 9 40 70 40 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70	98 708 Grands Grey 9800 + 4100 1 9 174 625 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95	101 bif Smerti Dect S 100.500 + 1.50 S.1 8.7 286 Schem 545 9 78 85 288 187 187 Treater, Robor 107 107 107 107 107 107 107 107 107 107	93. 978 Boots 88.00. +4.50 30 213 1007 450 375 Brown (14) 47.50 21 24.6 487 163 10 Burron Gp (34.00 +0.50 3 1 23 9 104	7 07 05 Look Gp 00555 . 81 68 204 5 12 20 Look RM 1225 . 17 00 1 267 8
M =	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10		Cardo 27:50 - 62 M.1 6455 Castops 26:50 - 30 01 822 Castops 26:50 - 47 113 628 Chemring 64:00 +1:50 24 - 166 Coloran 81:50 - 13 257 346 Coloran 18:50 - 77 842	77 Q4 UPST MADD: 4100 M = 045 5 5 Phishiped Ins 1200 = 0.1 79 6884 10 10 New Lond Cpd 86.50 = 87 0.7 6864 17 Color 17 5 0.40 17 Color 17 5 0.40 18 5 GP Ropublishma 18 5 GP Ropubl	To Be 19 Mark 19 Mark 19 Mark 150 01 12 500 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	69 100 Pain Scients	Pharmaceuticals \$1.29 Alaymr	53 42 Carringer 53 30 22 31 542 543 542 543	44.12 Suring 41.50 71.00.5009 205.00 Yorkyde 0900 72.80 0
iliya Ne Biring	36 199 Haterad 277.50 35 26 Harson 277.00 36 202 Hepworth 277.50 24 R Hepword W 207.50	+450 3.2	District Future 25/30 + 0.50 2.3 0.8 2022 1	55 16 Willia Carroom HE00 -0.50 5.6 14 501; IVPESTITIONIT Trusts 0400 71 50 35 ant Que Co 5700 -1.00 10 - 2690 17 27 66 3 5 ant Que Co 5700 -1.00 10 - 2690 17 28 60 35 ant Que Co 5700 -1.00 10 - 2690 17 28 70 40 50 50 50 50 50 13 - 707 1	54 III MiGoret SinCo M550 *100 14 50* 100 14	49/ 20 Pamb 34/ 25 - 1/5 6.3 _ 08/ 26 - 1/5 6.3 _ 0	D7 C Huntingdon LS 46.50	6) Fr Qp 330 — 0 40 08 Eam 6750 — 12 — 000 207 M ² Fre-Art Cee 16450v — 90 8.7 00 400 267 French Cem 357.50 — 10 203 200 405 26 Coldwrigh 357.50 — 10 203 200 405 26 Coldwrigh 259.00 ×10.03 3 M 76 680 780 ST GC Una 779.00 ×20.00 3.0 20.7 037 34 20 Mill Cham 779.00 ×20.00 3.0 20.7 037	Transport 20 86 Amer Port Sr. 0750 - 20 8.0 4080 20 70 A P Porm 30050 - 14 8.1 900 44 300 Amma 8500 - 6 104 95 04 Ass Eur 17000 - 100 - 196 64 45 BAA 5900c - 800 1 87 789
	18 20 Mayshalis 27.53 18 34 Mayer Ind 380.00 18 56 Noveros 87.00 18 00 Pillengton 28.00 18 18 Polypipe 97.00 18 25 FTS Go 24.50	-100 51 84 228 82 85 86 28 86	Pirth 32.5 — H.2 204 F Bruh Risson 0.00 — 27 6.0 08 PC	9 40 Abert Auber 4700 4025 19 - 4731 80 57 Abert Engliste 6300 +100 0.8 - 5751 80 57 Abert Higher 90 +100 0.8 - 5950 80 100 Abert Higher 100 +100 0.8 - 5960 80 40 Abert Scot 4775 4030 1.5 - 440 80 40 Abert Scot 4775 4030 1.5 - 440 80 40 770 Abert 100 1.5 - 4500 1.8 - 468	85 % Im Far of Im Tax 67500 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	51 Santego 0.75 - 38 0 30 01 Hustle Huy 1/850 - 27 - 105 H2 75 Torrestam 7550 - 17 0/3 308 179 0/4 Trass Moso w/50 A7 64 65	200 PB Pointempt Plan	231 Ob Hos of France 20100 +0.50 34 103 644 268 EB Sports 62.00 10 +0.0 2267 884 621 Kingfisher 848.00 3.0 20.5 9908	163 10 Coleman 10530 - 5,7 891 163 10 Coleman 10530 - 4,6 81 1795 13 198 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
	867.70 RP4C 867.00 85.77 Rubered 60.00 09 12 Rugby Gp 07.60 226.27 Shares & F 274.50	+150 54 KB 912 M9 91 +9700 34 127 G90 74 55 -050 74 41 9700 90 50 +050 14 312 M07 330 90 +150 11 21 900 60 27	Hampson 7250 - 9.8 20.9 377 2 Hallskreith 5350 - 1.1 - 354 Hamson 25.00 - 1.1 - 354 pe 405.50 - 1.8 2.9 258	16 25 Benterjan 250.00 +1.50 2.5 43 Md 2 12 15 Mg 2 15	399 361 Main O'Pearl 344-50 -3,000 15 1977 1877 09 1050 - 1050 - 1050 1877 09 1050	Life Assurance 105 78 8manne: 125 01 *2250 37 527 105 588 8ht legiblishe 158 8ht legiblis	95 70 Faired Lain 94.00 55 8.5 647 178 65 Faich Prop 10.150 -12. 127 7 1970 124 50 11.00 128 725 1 124 50 11.00 128 725 1 124 50 1	20109 MF	66 520 Forth Ports 65.00 _ 27 B9 5702 540 44 Go-Alved 585.0 -2.00 19 6.5 689 50 389 Goods Down 660.00 24 B8 784
gr _e , ts is:	20 Maheley 49800	83 95 2702 994 48 +500 29 57 3298 604 362 56 102	Metaclania 46050 - 35 223 256 7 Megata 5600 - 35 223 256 7	22 000 8rk Emp 58/G 197.75 1.2 97 1.3 122 Brunner 35:00 41:50 1:0 97 1.3 122 Brunner 35:00 41:50 1:0 97 1.3 122 Brunner 35:00 41:50 1:0 97 1.3 12 Brunner 37:00 41:50 2.5 5:50 41:50 1.3 12 Brunner 37:50 41:50 2.5 5:50 1.3 12 Brunner 37:50 57:50 1.3 12 Brunner 37:50 1.	198 291 Londond III 345.00 +10.0 42 34%. 194 292 Londond III 75 50 -10.0 42 34%. 194 392 Majdde IIII 75 50 -10.0 42 34%. 195 196 197 Longe Explore 84.00 +0.50 06 704. 195 196 197 Longe Refus. 195 19 -150 196 388. 196 197 197 Corte Pelice. 195 195 1125 10 25%.	200 4 Septem Proged 845 50 0 50 0 87 664 845 50 5 5 6 4 6 8 7 7 7 7 8 9 10 10 29 217 540 73 10 4 8 9 10 10 29 217 540 73 10 4 8 9 10 4 8	239 49 6 Land 4020 - 100 21 424 (23 23 24 24 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	97.7 9grax Gep 30.00 2.0 0.09 465 103 5mah WH 970.50 50 444 MS (200 m) 5 665.00 760.00 760.00 665.00 66.2 23 306 665.00 _ 66.2 23 306 665.00 _ 66.2 23 306 665.00 _ 66.2 23 306 665.00 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 24 306 _ 66.2 _ 66	800 12 For Stop 150 52 28 9 978 62 49 150 52 28 9 978 62 49 150 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	PI 10 Abright & WS 1630 91 99 And Collock 1889b 18 22 Amberter Cap 10250 11 Angle Uni 059 15 85 BCC 10640 16 75 Reg Vita 2750	-20 PD 989 40 29 0 74 50 15 00 33 07 1 000 18 16 45 03 07 266 54 45 03 07 266 54	Horns Anbby 79.502 1.00 22 16.2 09 2 Powerstree 50.59 1.00 22 16.2 09 2 Precost Ind 50.50 41 62 594 5 Precost 79.50 40 67 564 2 Precost 79.50 40 67 564 2 Precost 79.50 40 67 566 2 Precost 79.50 40 67 67 67 67 67 67 Precost 79.50 40 67 67 67 67 67 67 67 6	20 December Street 202.50 41 570 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Mai 056 Prory Eurol 102.5% - 0.50 / 1 165. 105 106 106 107.50 - 7.00 2.4 0.81 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 105 10	69 St. Augus Group 82 St. 0.35 10 207 569 197 DO Majares Tolorom 575 01 - 669 197 DW Amrico 197 500 - 22 116 2566 197 DW Barbour Indea 197 50 - 57 J 520 197 Berballe 175 58 0 40 768 Border IV 77 00 -150 12 Kr. 1966 197 MW St. 1970 145 197 197 197 197 197 197 197 197 197 197	15 0 Carty res	337 DS Thorus 57.50 -0.50 D B D P 1057 204 DP To Ruck 27.50 -3.31 DB DP 1057 204 DP To Ruck 27.50 -3.31 DB 600 DP 205 DP	601 91 Tebers 8 5 55:00 _ 16 58 306 407 275 Telf-finanter PHO0 022 209 83 Transport Dev 265:00 _ 5.8 2.7 He4 104 70 Left Carriers 71:00 _ 6.2 0.4 163 Watter
not be	37 M8 8TV 28590 第 M2 Counting(W) 25790 列 25 Courtants 29100 01 25 Crock 42.50 36 25 Doofer 25.50	- 42 1/3 1/4 275 126 +1.50 5.5 1/4 200 27.1 1/7 +0.50 23 1/5 1/5 1/5 27.1 1/7 - 46 9/6 5/82 1/6 20	Renord	15 344 (150 to 151 to 1	88 97 Phry Eng Con	90 490 Laptis Rigan 97:00 - 3.5 71 6924 571 Ob Carlson (-amos 97:00 - 5:00 3.3 14) 249 7 31 Ohres Cormen 4675 - 46 - 253 80: 500 Ohryside 90:00 - 06 892 19: 10 CM Group 84:50 - 18 314 990 80: 90 COrdian 85:50 45 0 - 99 893 80: 90 COrdian 85:50 45 0 - 99 893	99 56 Octochum Tev 97.50 *2.00 3.1 5.7 5.87 20 65 Denvora 202.50 = 2.8 6.3 767 324 448 Denvora Val 57.00 = 1.4 22.8 36.5 786 206 Eventors for 203.50 = 1.2 78.8 665 1.2 78.8 665 1.	Support Services 79 36 Admiral 78-50 2.00 04 448 5438 18 72 Alpha Alpirts 74-50 90 7.1 498 56 30 Anet Gp 47-50 +050 97 78 388 724 Admiral 78 372-50 +400 219 4075 69 10 89 88 88 8000 59 77 8448	196 025 Britisol Water 05,006 - 75,01 5,01 95, 5700 140 92 Des Valley Wir 65,006 - 5,2 84,9 3025 290 205 East Surnity 297,50 - 49 81,1 5725 97 70 Hyder 497,50 - 1,50 5,9 82, 408 605,006 605 Sentra Times 983,00x +5,00 4,9 0,07 405
mont	77 St. Europe Colr . 57 SM 10 St. Hudson led . 45 50 10 St. Huddely Cheim . 529,00 10 All ICI . 599,07 20 All Lager Gp . 24-50 24 Mr. Vallen Gp . 14-50 77 St. Laperta . 67 50	11 22 60 194 87 +(0 22 53 02 77 19 19 -120 14 07 99 17 77	Secretar India 550.00 + 1.50 1.1 5.2 1409 Sparar-Secon 557.50 + 1.50 1.1 5.2 2598 Sparar-Secon 263 50s + 1.00 4.9 0.8 2598	6 42 EmphisoCory(T 4475 +0.25 - 944) 8 40 EmphisoCory 60.50 +0.75 2.3 - 2554 5 EmphisoCory 60.50 +0.75 2.3 - 942 5 22 Seater Pril Cort 66.50 +0.50 0.4 - 503 5 22 Seater Pril Cort 66.50 +0.50 0.4 - 503	200 TSL Neth All Settle 19733 1973 1973 1973 1973 1973 1973 197	_M6_U* Dating Corp	34 26 Five Craws 31 90 1 1 10.3 20.9 004 475 Frogenom 479-50 52 63 207 185 266 Granger Trt 205 00 2.8 2221	506 395 BPP 507 50 - 14 22.2 3530 60 95 RSM Con 80 50 50 64 4495	1200 2755 South Sarfs 1200.00
	120 15 Manders 25.00 20 125 Maconic 36.00 20 22 Macroner 35.00 20 24 Marroner 100.00 20 25 Septe 29.00 20 27 Septe 29.00 25 27 Yorkspinishen 555.50 25 27 Yorkspinishen 555.50	22 23 403 27 16 12 23 403 388 25 18 05 0 74 10 23 251 758 70 505 12 22 244 58 70	Triples Lyd	St week Red :		\$2 week Rod High Low Stack Price Chy YioCode pain 42 0x Tay 85 to 30 41 403 x 68 ME	108 81 98 41 Try 7.5% Ok 107 78 8 69 6 34 4552	B 102 Code Grp 146.50 1.35.0 = 002 30.64 Compet 30.5002.2 86, 207, 20.67 Compet Ser 200, 3 86, 207, 31.201 Core Ser 200,3 86, 31, 100 30.40 Code Ser 200,3 86, 31, 100 30.40 Code Ser 200,3 86, 31, 20, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 30, 3	
inst Lau	70 50 Yorks Cop 27.50 27.50 Yell Corto 27.50 20.50 Yell St. Zogefants 20.50 Victor Shuttor 15 20.57 Absent Point 147.50	41 27 330 250 56 47 21 18 40 403 825 335 51 300 4562 54 97	Wedner 40.5 - 18 86 652	dex-Linked 10 18.84 Toy 14.425 98 16.07 0.00 3.9 6771 10 18.84 Toy 14.25 08 19472 -0.01 3.40 384 15 18.06 Toy 14.25 08 192.34 -0.01 3.77 387	55 97 44 % War 15% Perp 35 44 00 68 650 89% 12 06 49 28 Con 4% Perp 45 50 0 68 650 89% 18 port 50 0 68 75% 94 100 08 00 0 60 207	100 100	C1.89 19-06 Try 17-74	73 B Design Grp 3850 - 975 686 789 925 90 H Group 792 90 - 07 641 450 177 075 180 180 180 180 180 180 180 180 180 180	Recent Issues Agrato 57.00 000 Briss & Wax No 00.50 000
e for	54 294 ACA 336.50×	- 37 D9 AM Lange	Acon Rubber 0-59 12 158 15	150 (9.97 Tay 11. 10 to 25.59 4.00 1 3.6 3.67 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	K.M. (02.75 179-9-25 PP 106-03 000 694 208)	## 10 A C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	100 to 84.76 Try 5.2% to 94.9 0, 6, 27 576. 7549 100 62 50 98.1 574 52 516 62 50 64.0 62 54.0	16 56 Kalimataco Cinp. 65.50 1.00 7.2 67 2207 647 522 Karoli Spr. 90.006. 2.2 41, 2395 - Length Inc. 97.50 2.20 941 0300 1890 571 Longton 177.50 *20.000 12 24 006 536 251 Long Bridge 555 556.50 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12	Plestrolene 97.50 0.00 MSSTS (jerser) 665.00 0.00 Northern Rack 97.00 100 Seven Tren, 8 31.00 0.00 Thom B 9.00 0.00
a at T	25.20 Ottoe Picco: 275.08 69 Mg Securation 457.09 77 Mg Sanda Sec 65 78 Europa Micco: 94.00 60 37 Seas Halder 250.00	22 25 25 25 27 DE CO	755.00x +(60 100 -	Brieficon 25% Perp 75.06 0.06 640 876:		1000 WHAT THE TAX IN 10'02' 00'V 6 JF 7660	19 31 40 to Tay 875 to 125 50 013 025 300 128.34 168.22 Tay 8.75% 07 127 56 016 6.28 5725	15.55 PH. Gry 12.50 PH. D. 15.55 PH. Gry 15.	source: Bloomberg www.bloomberg.com
rest.	16 20 Fabor Frest 36.00	_ S.B 95 7582 !		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	The second secon

BT to 'cold call' 15 million customers to fight off challenge from rival networks

British Telecom is embarking on the UK's largest-ever customer "cold-calling" initiative, with plans to ring 15 million of its domestic subscribers at least four times a year. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, examines BT's bid to fight off the competitive challenge from rival networks.

For the bulk of BT's residential customers the new year will bring more than a post-Christmas hangover. Some 15 million households, those which are not members of low-spending budget plans, are about to receive the first "cold-call" from one of BT's recently established call centres.

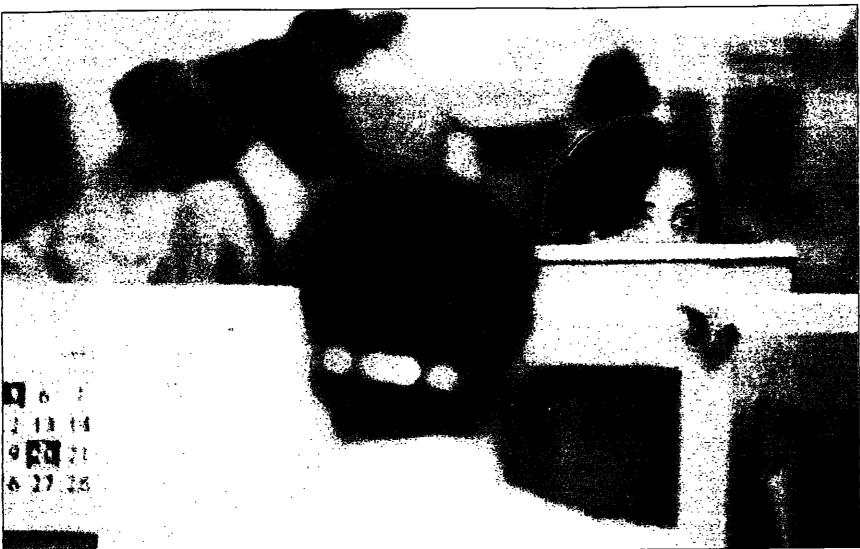
BT said yesterday that it would ring these customers four times, amounting to at least 60 million separate calls, every 12 months. The two-pronged strategy aims to ensure customers are satisfied with BT's existing service, including identifying any discounts not claimed, while attempting to sell extra products such as a second phone line.

Most customers will be called in the evening or at weekends, when they are likely to be at home, though BT said it would abide by a telemarketing code of practice. A spokesman defended the plan, arguing homes would not be rung up early in the morning, or after 9pm each night. Homes which objected to being called could opt out of the campaign, though BT insisted most customers were happy.

"We don't regard this as cold-calling, because we already have an ongoing relationship with these customers. We write to them eight times each year anyway," said the spokesman.

The approach, easily the biggest coldcalling exercise in the UK so far, is supported by BT's £100m investment in call centres, which has so far created around 3,000 new jobs. The newest two telemarketing centres opened recently at Doncaster and Gosforth on North Tyneside, each with 650 telemarketing terminals.

Operators are given pre-programmed calls from computer tapes, which provide information on customers' existing calling patterns, and read their questions from the



Calling the nation: Call centres for telephone-based selling have become one of the biggest growth areas of the 1990s

hour. Operators are graded in league tables, monitoring the amount of new business generated. Call Centres have become one of the big growth areas of the 1990s with financial services companies such as First Direct and Direct Line establishing bases for their telephone-based businesses.

The move is BT's latest response to the challenge from competitors such as the terminal screen. The staff mostly work part cable companies, who are signing up new time and earn commission for products sold residential customers, mostly poached of national calls made would, according to

month. The biggest cable group, Cable & Wireless Communications, laid down the ternational calls. gauntlet to BT last year with a £50m advertising campaign.

Last month Oftel, the UK telecoms watchdog, raised its forecast for the erosion of BT's domestic customer base, predicting that its share of residential exchange lines would drop to 70 per cent by 2000, from around 91 per cent today. BT's share

to supplement basic pay of about £4.50 an from BT, at the rate of about 150,000 a Oftel, fall to just 50 per cent, while the group would account for just 40 per cent of in-

> The cold-calling campaign aims not just to hold on to customers, but to offset the damage from competition by encouraging homes to use the phone more often. BT ber: despite the fact that the price reduction But apperts reckon the remaining businesses claims the strategy has already paid tion does not take effect until Mayer the will fetch more understrates. By applying dividends, with 14 million customers now members of the Friends and Family scheme.

BT has combined the cold-calling policy can marketing adviser.

with an advertising strategy increasingly shifted towards promoting special offers and discounted services such as Friends and

Photograph: Tom Pilston

Family. In the most recent case this saw Christmas adverts promoting a 20 per cent

around double the membership a year ago. the brainchild of Ed Carter, BT's Ameri-rdl-Lynch analyst Robyn Coombs calculates

Promise of disposals lifts ICI

Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) & is planning to sell what remains of its industrial chemicals businesses in the coming year, in a move which could raise £1.2bn. Peter Thal Larsen reports on the next stage of the chemical giant's massive restructuring.

The news came as ICI announced the completion of the sale of its polyester polyme businesses to DuPont, which was announced in July. The group also said further "substantial" disposals could be expected in 1998. ICI shares firmed 8p to 959p.

According to experts, businesses on the block include ICT's North American titalnium dioxide interests; its Runcorn-based chlorine-manufacturing subsidiary and divisions making polymers and chemicals that replace ozone-destroying CFC gases Several announcements are expected

before ICI reports its annual results in February. An ICI spokesman said the group was in talks about several potential deals, but refused to comment on specific cases. Charles Miller-Smith, ICI's chief exec-

utive, has mapped out a future for the group in which it pulls out of cyclical, capital-intensive bulk chemicals in favour of specialised chemicals with a high value-added content. That strategy inspired the acquisition of

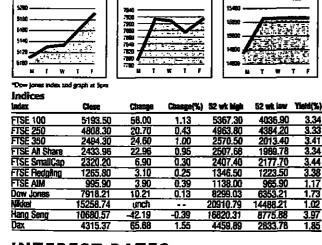
Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses in July for £4.9bn. ICI subsequently targeted £3bn of disposals over three years to reduce debt. But in a whirlwind of activity it has raised £3.6bn in just six months. Now the group is keen to complete the

transition. Analysts also think ICI wants to pursue smaller bolt-on acquisitions in speciality chemicals. Further disposals would give it the firepower to do so.

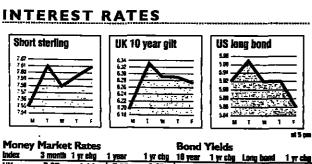
"Basically, anything outside the paints materials and speciality chemicals divisions is up for sale," said Phillip Morrish, chemicals analyst at Nikko Securities.

ICI's recent disposals have been sold for discount off one Friends and Family num- a multiple of about one times annual sales. The campaigns, more aggressive than a sales multiple of 0.6 to the industrial dithe "good to talk" approach of the past are ? Wision's remaining £2bn of turnovers Merthat the unit is worth £1,2bn.

STOCK MARKETS



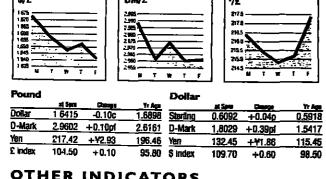
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	City (p)	% (2 4 1)	Falls	Price (y)	C20 (p)	% Chga
Danka Bus Syst	256.00	21.00	8.94	Avis Europe	170.00	-3.00	-1.73
Medeva	171.00	9.50	5.88	Amvescap	515.00	-8.00	-1.53
Nycomed Amer	2250.00	100.00	4.65	NFC	180.00	-1.50	-0.99
RMC	887.00	37.00	4.35	Brit Biotech	103.00	-1.00	-0.96

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

<u>1 at 5 gas</u>	Cloca	Clag	Yr Age		ledez	Chg	Yr ago	Next Sign
Brent Oil (\$)	15.96	0.02	24.37	GDP	113.90	3.70	109.84	Jan
Gold (\$)	288.15	-0 60	365.55	RPI	159.60	3.70	153.91	Jan
Silver (S)	5.94	-0.05	477	Base R		7.25	6.00	<u> </u>
www.bloomberg.com source: Bio							berg	

Surge in consumer borrowing dampens rate hopes

rise in consumer credit in November, along with an upbeat trading statement from the John Lewis group, suggested pre-Christmas reports of a slowdown on the high street were exaggerated. It is not safe yet to rule out further interest rate increases, analysts concluded. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, gets the measure of seasonal spending.

Figures showing a big

New borrowing by consumers jumped by £1.2bn in November,

for rail link tunnels

The construction of the high-

speed Channel Tunnel rail link

s set to take an important step

forward with the award of con-

tracts worth £550m for the tun-

nels which will carry the line into

London & Continental Rail-

ways, the consortium selected to

build the £5.4bn link, is expected

to place the contracts early this

month, laying to rest worries

about whether the project

the tunnelling contracts before

Christmas and the delay re-

newed fears that the financing

of the project might be in dif-

ficulty. In November, the con-

sortium quashed speculation

that the 68-mile link might be

built only as far as Stratford, east

London, or Ebbsfleet in Kent

cluding Railtrack, about alter-

The intention is to raise

as a cost-saving measure.

building the link.

LCR had intended to award

would go ahead.

London's St Pancras station.

LCR set to award contracts

February, and undermined the halting what had appeared to be widespread view that the a firm downward trend. summer spending boom is over.

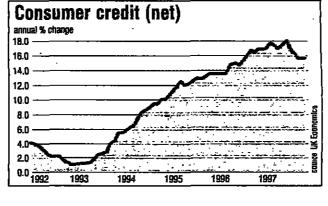
Earlier figures showing slower growth in retail sales during the same month, and anecdotal evidence from stores, had fuelled hopes that there was already enough of a slowdown to persuade the Bank of England to hold off raising interest rates again. Many City economists predict at most one more rate rise, and that not before February when the economic picture will be clearer.

However, yesterday's evidence indicated that these hopes might yet prove premature.

The surprise November consumer credit rise was £300m higher than the previous according to Bank of England month's figure. It took the figures yesterday. It was the annual growth rate in lending

biggest monthly increase since up a fraction to 15.4 per cent. The figures also confirmed bank and building society

> The increase was dominated by a £522m rise in loans advanced by "other specialist lenders", much of which could have been linked to car sales. In 1997 these reached the highestever total for November.



Former Foreign Secretary joins F&C as a part-time director

funding in the middle of this year through the flotation of LCR and a debt issue. The share offer will raise £1bn-£1.5bn. But it emerged yesterday executive director.

that a number of the contractors bidding for work on the project might also be interested in taking small equity stakes in LCR. Tarmac and Balfour Beatty are thought to have been sounded out although it is not thought that either company would be prepared to put up a large sum of money.

The two contractors are in rival consortia bidding for the biggest single tunnelling contract - a £300m deal to dig 12 kilometres of tunnelling and a massive station box at Stratford, which will be one of the intermediate stations on the line. According to some reports,

the front-runner is a joint ven-However, LCR is in talks ture between Balfour Beatty with up to six other parties, in- and Amec, although other industry sources insist that the native ways of financing or Tarmac consortium is still in the

- Michael Harrison

Foreign & Colonial, the fund management group, has signed up its second former Conservative Cabinet minister as a non-

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the ex-Foreign Secretary, has been appointed a part-time director of Foreign & Colonial's Emerging Markets Investment Trust. The move follows the appointment last year of Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, as non-executive director of F&C's flagship investment vehicle, the Investment Trust.

A spokeswoman for F&C declined to give Sir Malcolm's salary for the part-time post, which began on 1 January. However, Mr Clarke is being paid £18,000 for his job. which involves attending a board meeting for one day a month.

It is the third non-executive directorship Sir Malcolm has secured since losing his seat as MP for Edinburgh Pentlands to Labour at the last election. Last summer he was appointed

as non-executive director of Ramco Energy, the AIM-listed independent oil company based in Aberdeen. He is also nonexecutive international director of BHP Petroleum, the Australian oil company.

reports that mortgage lending

was weaker at £1.9bn in No-

vember compared with £2.2bn

the previous month. However.

the annual growth rate for home

loans remained unchanged at 5.9

per cent, well up from the pre-

vious year's pace of increase.

George Nissen, chairman of F&C's Emerging Markets IT said he was "delighted" at the move. "His breadth of knowledge will make a valuable contribution to the company." Sir Malcolm is also the third

senior Tory figure to sign up a non-executive directorship with an F&C trust. Apart from Mr Clarke, F&C has appointed Baroness Hogg, former adviser to John Major, as chairman of its Smaller Companies Investment Trust Of the former Cabinet min-

isters. Mr Clarke has been most successful in the hunt for outside jobs. On top of his £43,000 MP's salary, he has secured a £1200000 a year non-executive chairmanship of Unichem, along with jobs

lighted the importance of post-Christmas sale. looking beyond the monthly Brian O'Callaghan, director of trading, said it had been a retail sales reports. High street spending accounts for only a "splendid outcome", much in-

The lending details high-

third of total consumer fluenced by the strength of expenditure and excludes, as business on the final four days before Christmas. Many of the well as car sales, spending on gloomier anecdotes emerged items like entertainment and before Christmas week itself: holidays. In addition, retail sales are heavily distorted by seasonal

James Barty, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "You have to take figures for Nopatterns at this time of year. vember, December and January Typically, nearly a fifth of all the as a whole". But he predicted: cash to flow through high street "Consumers have not gone back tills does so during December, but even within the month the into their shells. They are still spending in a very robust way. timing depends on which day of

been a cracking start to its

Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe, one of the firmest store group, reported yesterday adherents to the view that interest rates have climbed high enough, agreed yesterday that: "Consumers' appetite to take on new year. It also said there had debt is uncomfortably strong."

Hong Kong sale to net **Vodafone £100m**

Vodafone is to net £100m from the sale of its stake in Hong Kong's fourth-largest mobile phone network, Pacific Link Communications.

the week Christmas falls.

John Lewis, the department

that its sales during the four

weeks prior to Christmas were

8 per cent up on the previous

The move follows a longawaited HK\$4.84bn (£380m) deal signed on New Year's Eve between Pacific Link and Hongkong Telecom, the hugely profitable phone giant which is majority-owned by Cable & Wireless. Vodafone had a 35 per cent stake in Pacific Link, with the remainder owned by First Pacific, the conglomerate. The

by 5 January. Vodafone said it would use the cash proceeds to reduce its borrowings, which were about £630m at the time of the group's last financial results. The operator's share price, which soared by 80 per cent last year, rose a further 6p to 445p on vesterday's news.

deal is expected to be completed

A spokesman said Vodafone had viewed Pacific Link as a non-core business, partly - Chris Godsmark hecause it used the US digital

mobile standard, unlike the GSM digital technology employed by the UK group and across Europe. Vodafone also. pointed to fierce competition hetween Hong Kong's 팃

mobile networks. In recent months Vodafone has bolstered its international strategy, offering to take a controlling interest in Libertel, the Dutch phone group and indicating it would exercise an option to raise its shareholding in SFR, the French digital mobile operator.

On Monday the four UK mobile operators will announce subscriber numbers for the last quarter of 1997, with bumper growth expected in the run-up to Christmas.

Analysis expect Vodafone and One2One to tie for first place, with increases of around 150.000 in their subscriber base Orange, the newest network. is likely to be in third place, with Cellnet expected to show the smallest expansion.

– Chris Godsmark

حكنا من الاجل

ميسير الدوائدة * 1-1 2-12-7 the April 1 -se if store E€ --12--- C €

searchers so

ystery of sea

are price sui

241 7522 INTERNATION OF metal a strong COUNTY DOES

windex spurs IT sh

m st ii.

OCSM diale

plos : 1 10

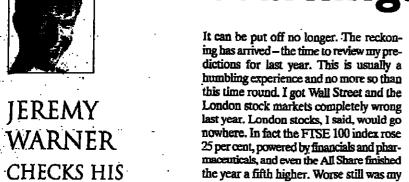
mas Fil

INTRE ...

Quarte.

19/BUSINESS

Warning: turbulent market conditions ahead



would come seriously off the boil. The Dow finished the year more than 20 per cent up. Fortunately, some of my other main forecasts were a little better. My prediction for the pound, which I said would remain strong because of rising interest rates, was closer the mark, and my reading of Japan was spot on. Tokyo, I said. would remain in the doldrums; Japanese stocks were still overvalued by international standards and there was no evidence of a

the year a fifth higher. Worse still was my

forecast for Wall Street, which I said

revival in the Japanese economy. I can also claim to have got the rest of the Far East partially correct, though for entirely the wrong reasons. I failed utterly to predict the economic crisis in the Pacific Rim economies - hardly alone in this - but I did forecast turmoil in the Far East. My belief was that this would be sparked not by the bursting of the region's investment bubble, but by the Hong Kong handover, which I thought would prompt an international crisis with knock on consequences for financial markets. In fact the handover could hardly have been smoother. All in all then. I probably shouldn't be awarding myself any more than about 4 out of 10 for crystal ball gazing some of my micro-predictions on com-

panies were wrong too. This was a year that contained some salutary lessons now just for me, but for all forecasters. Perhaps the most revealing was the way in which the bear case for equities was reinvented during the latter stages of the year. To the extent that Western markets did wobble and lose their self-confidence, this was not prompted by the usual

and most predicted set of circumstances. In recent times, bear markets have generally been caused by the resurgence of inflationary pressures, sharp increases in interest rates and a consequent reduction in liquidity as economies slow and recession begins to grip. Moreover, the collapse tends to start on Wall Street and then spread to the rest of the world.

What happened in October, when Wall Street looked as if it was going to crash, was the very reverse. The crisis began not in the US but the Far East and then spread from these comparatively small economies to the world's largest stock markets. The fear that gripped markets was not that of

inflation leading to higher interest rates, but of deflation.

It was said that recession in the Far East would force the region to chase the only growth market left - the US - which would become flooded with cheap imports made cheaper still by competitive devaluation. This in turn might cause an investment famine in the US, consumer confidence would collapse, and it would be like the 1930s all over again.

So here was another curious about-turn in perceptions. The world was suffering, it began to be said, not from the traditional bugbear so much cited by politicians of under-investment, but from over-investment. Rapid growth in the Far East had led to uneconomic investment and a surplus in worldwide industrial capacity. Markets might therefore begin to behave like the Nikkei since the collapse of the 1980s property and stock market bubble. Policymakers would find themselves trapped in a deflationary vortex.

For the time being, that fear seems to have receded, though there are still plenty of pundits around prepared to preach the theory. One such this week was George Soros, the international speculator and philanthropist who, as is his wont, proposed a number of largely unrealistic policy options to counter the supposed threat of world-

When markets are in such buoyant mood, however, every cloud has its silver lining. Such is the unrelenting optimism of Wall Street and the American psyche that many in the US have already come to see the Asian crisis as positively a good thing. at least in terms of its effects on the US. Trouble in the Far East will put a muchneeded deflationary break on runaway US growth, dampen domestic wage pressure, and therefore reduce the need for any in-

terest rate hike this year, it is being said. With one leap we are thus back to the idea that bear markets are caused by inflationary pressures. If the effect of turmoil in the Far East is to keep these pressures in abeyance, then what's happened is not bad news for Wall Street at all. Rather, it might allow the longest running bull market in US history to continue for another few years yet.

Believers in the New Age, a new economic paradigm that will allow non-inflationary growth in the US to continue into the indefinite future, still outnumber those who find this view incredible. Indeed, the new religion seems to find more converts everyday. Even Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has watered down his view of a year ago that Wall Street stock prices were suffering from irrational exuberance. Furthermore, the sheer size of corporate activity said to be in the pipeline of the Far East and Japan.

- takeovers, mergers, share buybacks and other capital repayments - both in the US and Europe, gives a powerful upward momentum to markets.

Wall Street thus becomes harder to read than ever. Is it deflation or inflation that will bring this bull run to an end? Or are the two set to cancel each other out, allowing stocks and bonds to carry on upwards. I said last year that Wall Street was horribly overvalued and riding for a fall and I've no reason to change that view. Neither the New Ageists nor the believers in Worldwide Deflation seem to me to have the answers. Markets depend crucially, however, not on what is happening but on what people think might happen. Wall Street over the next year will be ruled by whichever school of thought gets the upper hand.

One important pointer to the future is perhaps the fact that nearly all of this year's rise on Wall Street took place in the first half of the year. Despite its gyrations, the Dow has in effect been running on the spot since August, apparently unable to make up its mind which way to go. In a sense, then, the bull market has already ended, though it hasn't yet given way to a bear market. This seems to me a quite sound view of what we might expect from stocks this year. Be wary of Wall Street, don't expect miracles from London, and steer well clear

Researchers solve the mystery of seasonal share price surges

er belt-masses 148. The tendency for share **December and January** has long been a puzzle and Pin and mental to economists. If stock markets are the efficient marketplaces that they are supposed to be, with are supposed to be, wi ार्क लां राज के के the विकास traders able to respond

PREDICTIONS

FOR LAST YEAR

AND LOOKS

-TO WHAT'S

IN STORE

AHEAD

aming timed in well instantly to new they have such a strong seasonal pattern, asks Diane Coyle?

At last a researcher has come up with an answer to this question that allows economists to cling to their view that stock market behaviour, as revealed by share prices, is always totally rational it is that traders are reacting to underlying information that itself has a pro-

nounced seasonal pattern. In a paper in the recent edition of the Economic Journal Richard Priestley from the Norwegian School of

Management confirms that the prices of UK shares usually rise in December, January and April, and by more than would

be expected given the movements in the kind of economic statistics such as output, prices and the money supply that normally move the stock market. The US stock market, too, has a tendency to rise in January. This was certainly true for

the FTSE 100 index this December. It has climbed 304 points, or 6 per cent, in the iatest month. The Dow Jones Industrials index in the US had a weaker month, advancing by just over 1 per cent. Figures for the rest of 1997

also broadly confirm with the pattern. January saw a 4.8 per cent rise, although this was outweighed by an 8.9 per cent surge in September on the back of increasing optimism Britain would enter the European single currency sooner rather than later, and a 6.6 per cent uplift in July. April saw a

2.9 per cent rise. But author Richard Priestley finds that the seasonality in share price returns is caused by

World Cup boost for euro kick-off date

Optimism is growing that European monetary union will start on time a year from now, as Britain prepares for its first full week as president of the European Union.

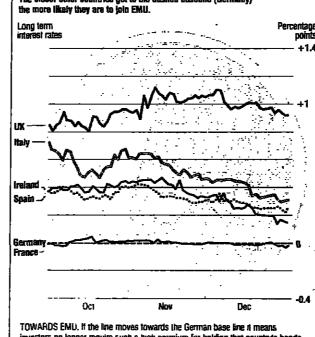
There are only five months to go until the crucial Council of Ministers meeting in May to decide which countries will take part in the launch of the single currency on January 1999.

Julian Jessop, an analyst at Nikko Europe, has raised his forecast of EMU starting on schedule to 85 per cent from 80 per cent in the light of the increasingly positive tone of the new year message of German politicians.

But Mr Jessop said he still retained a one-in-five chance of a delay or collapse of the whole programme as there was still the possibility of a hitch cropping up in the next 12 months.

Alison Cottrell, of Paine Webber, who rates the chances of a successful launch at 95 per in April, unexpected tax cent, said it was too late, in both political and economic terms, for any of the leading European Union countries to throw a spanner in the works with just five months until the final

One boost for the project



Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

nvastors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident, the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time

AWAY FROM EMU However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher unflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

came from a surprising source - the World Cup in France this summer will increase tax receipts for the French government, thereby helping the country's deficit.

Meanwhile, the Bundesbank president. Hans Tietmeyer, said yesterday that any

year, is raising its variable

mortgage rate by 0.25 per-

centage points to 8.7 per cent.

in line with other major

lenders, from Monday for ex-

appointments to the European Central Bank must guarantee monetary policy stability.

He said that any countries joining currency union must prove themselves ready and willing to live together in a Europe marked by long-term

Alliance & Leicester raises mortgage rate

More than half a million homebuyers received their first official piece of financial bad news in 1998 with the announcement that Alliance & Leicester is increasing its

A&L, which has 550,000 home loan borrowers, is one of the last of the big mortgage providers to increase mortgage rates following the previous interest rate rise in November. The group, which con-

verted to a public company last

isting borrowers and from today for new customers. mortgage rate. It said it had delayed its response to the last bank rate increase on November 6 to avoid burdening borrowers with an increase in their mort-

The only other big mort-

gage payments just before

gage lender not to have raised rates following the November rise is Bradford & Bingley

Building Society. Bradford & Bingley has in place a self-imposed ban on raising rates until the end of this month, when its home loan rates are thought bound to increase.

A&L spokesman Geoffrey Seymour said its 3.5 million savers would benefit from higher savings rates over the next few weeks.

Drop in US exports seen as reaction to Asian crisis

The pace at which US manufacturing industry is expanding slowed last month, sending what economists interpreted as the first signal of reduced demand in Asia. The National Association of Purchasing Managers said its index of activity fell to 52.5 from 54.4 in November, with output, orders and prices all lower. The export orders component slipped particularly sharply, from 54.2 to 50.6 - just over the dividing line of 50 between expansion and contraction. Norbert Ore, head of the NAPM's business survey, said: "Inflation is not rearing its head in any fashion."

Deeside gets new crusts

Deeside in North Wales is set to become one of the pizza-making centres of Europe following a deal by a leading producer to set up a new factory there. The move, by Paramount Foods, will initially bring 35 new jobs to Deeside, followed by a further 50 over the next two years. Paramount has agreed a 16year lease on a mothballed Heinz sauce manufacturing plant. The company said it would make 50 million pizza crusts a year at Deeside, adding to the 75 million crusts produced each year

Colloids wins extension

Chemicals group Allied Colloids Group gained more time to publish all information in defence to the hostile £1.07bn takeover bid made by the American group Hercules. The Takeover Panel said yesterday the timetable was being extended as the Office of Fair Trading was yet to decide whether the bid would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). The last day for publication of new information by Allied Colloids, usually the 39th day after the offer document is posted, was this Sunday. The Panel said the "day 39" would now be deemed to the second day after it was made known whether it should be referred to the MMC.

Talks on S Korea continue

US commercial banks met last night to continue talks on how to help South Korea emerge from its financial crisis, according to reports from New York. The meeting, which followed Monday's gathering of US bankers at the Federal Reserve Bank, reportedly dealt with ways to roll over Korean debt. Bankers agree on the pressing urgency to address Korea's problem of maturing short-term obligations, but the talks will revolve around methods of restructuring the country's public and pri-

On Monday JP Morgan proposed a mammoth debt offering and swap arrangement. Meanwhile, South Korea reported a record balance of trade surplus in December, as a weaker won made exports cheaper in global markets and led to a steep decline in imports.

Ocean buys Intexo

Logistics specialist Ocean Group has completed the acquisition of 67 per cent of the issued share capital of Van Ommeren Intexo Holding BV for a cash consideration of £18.9m. The name of the company will be changed to Intexo Holding BV.

New index spurs IT shares to fresh highs

Information technology (IT) shares continued to sparide yesterday on their first day as part of the Stock Exchange's new IT index.

Despite the reduced trading hours and subdued trading activity, the index's largest constituents surged ahead.

IT shares have risen sharply since the formation of the index was first amounced at the beginning of December. In the past month, many FT shares have posted gains of between 10

Foreign Exchange Rates

Spot Rates

Other

and 20 per cent as institutional investors attempt to adjust their weighting to the sector.

administers the Stock Exchange's indices, had originally planned to introduce the index at the end of 1998. But the launch date was moved forward due to demand from investors. The index is currently a component of the Support Services sector, but is expected to become a sector in its own right.

FTSE International, which

Spot 0.3379 0.8533 713.42 20.625 0.7997 3.8075 0.9138 3.0253 3.3485 1.0000 15803 4.2994 4.4683 0.3202 4.0863 1.0277 2.0808 0.9420 2.7045 84.656 4.4266 0.942

0.3850 44000 39.500 3,4970 88405 59580 80000 32.550 48.000 206800 3,6725

www.bloomberg.com

0.6100 15386 12,677 37:11 14237 68521 10879 5.4417 60213 17992 29630 17,7589 14209 17,7589 13,185 3,9730

20263 1,7310 7,3521 184,26 3,7511 1,7025 4,9160 152,49 7,9622 1,4614

0.6320 72,237 64,849 5,742 5,9766 9781,5 2826,8 53,439 78,904 339514

TT consultancy firms were

Spot 0.6091 15381 12,680 37,178 14283 10968 54533 10968 54533 10968 54533 17715 132,43 3,970 20,577 73,558 184,36 3,750 4,8750 7,970 1,4689 1,4689 1,4689 1,4689 1,4689

Omen
Pakistan
Philipines
Potand
Ostar
Pusies
South Kores
Tellwan
Thaliand
Turksy
UAE

10000 1358 82700 34875 3.5890 2215.0 205.00 39.250 5950.0 0,3048 75120

particularly in demand, with Logica putting on 20p to 1,177.5p, CMG gaining 7.5p to 1,532.5 and Sema closing 5p higher at 1,487.5p. Also in demand were software developers Misys, up 12-5p to 1.842-5 and Micro Focus, up 125p to 2405.

the increased uncertainty about

these statistics in the three

the extra uncertainty concerns

the pattern of demand and

production in the economy

over Christmas and the new

year sales period. Sales at this

time can set the tone for the whole year and have unusually

important implications for the

of the level of economic activ-

ity ... around this defied dro-

vide important information

regarding the performance of

the economy and subsequent

levels of activity in the coming

year. This has general impli-

cations for the health of the

economy and specifically for

changes could be the cause of

economics profession's "effi-

cient markets hypothesis" ap-

pears safe. The higher the risk.

the higher the return, just as the

Whatever the reason, the

Mr Priestley speculates that

firms' cash flows."

the extra uncertainty.

theory would predict.

He writes: "Announcements

level of business activity.

In December and January

months in question.

Although the index includes 88 stocks, the majority are small companies. Five large companies - Sema, Misys, ČMG, Sage and Logica - account for over 40 per cent of the index's value. Peter Thal Larsen

Interest Rates 8.50% Discount
5.00% Beiglum
6.00% Discount
Central
4.75% Switzerland 275% 3.30% 600% Spain 450% 10-d Repo Sweden 3.30% Fed Funds 6.50% Discount Discount 435% Lombard 100% 3.75% 3.50% 5.47 5.54 5.44 5.30 5.32 5.57 1.94 5.31 5.57 6.00 Austrafa Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japen Ntands Spain Sweden Stand US

Money Market Rates 3 months 6 months 1 year Bid Offer Bid Offer Bid Offer LEBOR
Domestic Depos
Eurosterling Deps
Bigble Bank Bills
Sterling CDs
Eurodeller CDs 756 753 759 756 741 739 756 748 577 431 447 7,44 750 744 750 723 75 7,46 740 5,64 4,19 4,31 756 763 759 766

Liffe Financial Futures Open sterest 175044 222485 Est floor volume 6301 20607 Long Gitt German Bund US Long Bond Italian Bond Japan Govi Bd 3 Mth Sterling 5266 174 5720 2644 10349 8435 2118 2394 14575 140946 112828 363341 328475 165406 128363 9817 9797 9551 9552 73647 30142 9142 8181 15823 98.27 98.07 95.53 95.52 3 Mph ECU Mar-96 Mar-98 Dec-98 FTSE 100 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option Cest Put 273 124 241 144 209 166 177 187 | Call | Imp Vol | Put | Imp Vol | 317 | 26 | 176 | 25 | 277 | 25 | 216 | 24 | 227 | 25 | 238 | 24 | Feb | Put | 165 | 53 | 126 | 68 | 100 | 90 | 69 | 115 | Jan Call Put 369 223 336 243 306 263 275 284 | Prest Crude(s/barrel) Gas oil(S/tonne) |
| PE Last Chg Vol | PE Close Chg Vol |
| Feb 1659 9655 Jan 5000 3783 |
| Mar 1665 4(9) Feb 6156 2765 |
| Apr 678 834 Mar 53300 470 Spot CIF NW Eur Last* Chg NYM 174.00 183.00 3783 Jan 2185 Feb 410 Mar Apr **Commodity Indices** %chgYTE Chg -193 -058 -097 -090 -193 -090 1937 -214 -2786 -673 -1019 -1620 1970 = 100 1983 = 100 1977 = 100

Industrial Metals 16235 1380 1712 546 5985 5415 10995 **Precious Metals** pm fiz/£ per oz Day's Year's crig chg 367.50 4.50 1.50 201.50 -1.50 81.25 5.84 -0.05 1.17 288.00 -2.20 -78.55 Pletinum Pelisdium Säver Gold Platinum 223.70 4.50 8.99 Palladium 122.65 0.05 52.00 Silver 3.62 -0.01 0.82 Agricultural * as 5:38pm UFFE \$/tonne LIFFE S/lonne LIFFE Shorne \$/25k kg 174700 173200 Jan98 Mar98 May38 Vol: Jan98 Mar98 May98 Vol: Mar88 Apr98 May98 Vol: 563.50 670.50 678.00 163255 LIFFE SOIGH CBOT Cents/bahl Mar98 26250 May98 26950 July 27425 Vol: 106045 308.60 312.10 Jan98 Feb96 Apr98 Val: 121000 122500 Jan98 Mar98 May98 Vol; 80.50 83.50 85.50 32.46 36.10 207 127500 0 31440 0 Other Softs 65.47 Mar White Maize (SAF) \$/100 mt
50.40 Jan Rubber (TCM) Y/ 5k kg
83.70 Mer Cotton (CTM) \$/50k lb
14.33 Feb Crude Palm (KLC) \$/25 tn
149.75 Mar Soya Oil (CBT) \$/60k lb
347.50 Jan Woollen Yam (TC*1) \$/500kg (CME) 8/40k lb (CME) 5/40k lb e (CTN) \$/15k lb (CSC) \$/50k to

20/UNIT TRUSTS

UK Equity Growth 7497 (C.99) (C.9 Fund of Funds erg in Jacomister Residentiation Res | Section | Sect Sunt Art Name

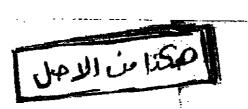
Street A 01/92 12/91 07/93 07/98 07/98 07/98 07/98 07/98 3 509.28 5 463.11 0 423.45 0 708.60 0 932.05 0 1274.19 4 495.12 0 872.40 Life Managed Funds | Standard March | Mar ### Commodition | Commodition ### State | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 | 1995 1000年15日,1000年15日,1000年16日,1000年15日,10 ### 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1991 《新的经历法院的特别的通知的通知》的"1990年,我们的自己的,我们就是由于自己的的任何是最终的第三人称单数,在自己的是是是一种的一种,是一种的一种,是一种的一种,这种的一种,我们就是一种的一种的一种,我们就是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一种的一种,我们可以是一 60860798855589482588888949278888881:888 864875887588758767848889497878888881:888 86587587887687848888

THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLL VIN

How to spot bargain in ights offer

STANDARD

83.90 69.17 196.70 347.00 40 : 3 129.30 60.70 60.00 61.77 65.87 52.31 52.31



New year forecasts can seriously damage your wealth



JONATHAN **DAVIS** COLUMN

The new year is the time when the stock market pundits dust down their crystal balls and try to forecast the future direction of the markets. As regular readers will know, I take a different tack. I prefer to take down a book or re-read the wisdom of the market's most successful practitioners and remind myself how worthless all such forecasts are.

As it happens, a new book which reinforces my prejudices in a telling way has just appeared. It provides a timely reminder of why forecasts of where the markets are heading are at best idle amusements - and at worst downright injurious to your health.

The Fortune Sellers, by William Sherden (published by John Wiley), is not just a book about forecasting the stock market - it looks at the dismal track record of economic forecasts, population projections and so on as well - but it is about as effective a demolition job on the value of market pundits as you could hope to find. He does a brilliant job at debunking the track record of many of the best-known names in the business, including the American market strategist Elaine Gazarelli, who has built a successful career out of being the woman who foretold the market crash of 1987.

(Alas, according to Mr Shelden's evidence, she foretold a number of other market corrections which failed to hap-

pen, and her own stock market fund under performed the market when she tried to out her market timing model into

I liked this quote from John Bogle, the founder of the Vanguard fund management firm, on the folly of attempting to make money from timing the market: "In the 30 years in this business, I do not know anybody who has done it successfully and consistently, nor anybody who knows anybody who has done it successfully and consistently.

"Indeed, my impression is that trying to do market timing is likely not only not to add value to your investment programme, but to be counterproductive."

A survey of 108 newsletters which claimed to be able to predict the future course of the market found in 1994 that only one had been able to beat the market in the previous five years. The number of mutual funds, meanwhile, which managed to beat the market averages over one, two, three, four and five years was almost exactly what you would have expected if the results had been entirely random.

For those who like corroboration nearer home, there is always the annual forecasting exercise carried out by the Financial Times. Each Christmas it asks a panel of six market experts to try to predict where the main markets and

economic indicators will be 12 months later. This year was a particularly salutary indication of how hazardous such an exercise can be.

With isolated exceptions, the six pundits - all highly respected figures in the City - did not even get the direction of the three main markets (New York, London and Tokyo) right, let alone the scale of the move.

With minor exceptions, they expected the London market to stand still or fall (it rose by 22 per cent); Wall Street to fall as well (it rose by a further 19 per cent); and for Japan to recover (instead it fell by 23 per cent).

With one exception in each case, they all expected emerging markets to rise (when, of course, they fell sharply), for the gold price to rise (it fell from \$370 an ounce to \$293 an ounce) and for the oil price to stay above \$20 a barrel (it fell 29 per cent to \$17 a barrel).

The experts did, however, have some modest success in forecasting what would happened to inflation, interest rates and the exchange rate (which are related in various ways, and in the end did not move very much at all).

What most studies of forecasting show interestingly, is that the best track record in short-term predictions is achieved by simply assuming that next year's performance is the same as the previous year's.

This so called "naïve forecast" is the longrun winner over time for a whole range of different variables, including the performance of the economy.

In the case of stock markets, it may be reasonable to adjust this by assuming that they will continue to grow year-on-year at their long-run rate of growth, which is 67 per cent in, real terms - while recognising that in the longer run, periods of outperformance must be followed by periods of underperformance.

The good news is that for most ordinary investors, the folly of the forecasts is not something that they need to spend too much time worrying about. They are far better advised to spend their time making sensible long-term investment decisions and looking for pockets of value where they can find them.

If you want general exposure to the higher long-run returns the stock market has to offer, then an index fund or a monthly savings scheme with one of the general diversified investment trusts (currently selling at a 15 per cent discount to asset value and a better bargain than an equivalent unit trust) is the obvious

place to start. For those who want higher risks and returns, then trying to pick the right stock or growth fund is the obvious way to go. For those who have a genuinely long-term view of investment, and a higher tolerance in the Far East has undoubtedly made some of the emerging markets look more rather than less - attractive as an

You can, for example, buy Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust, a well-diversified fund following a wellestablished investment philosophy, at a significant discount for the first time in a long time and buy into a number of Asian markets which have fallen by 50 per cent to 80 per cent from their highs.

Those look like good value opportunities for the long term to me, just as gilts looked good value to me when I started writing about their merits two years ago. How good an investment anything will look in precisely a year's time is another

I have my guesses about where the markets will be in 12 months' time, but the mass of scientific evidence has convinced me that they are hunches, rather than opinions of enduring value.

The good news is that of all the skills required to be a successful investor, the ability to know where the stock market indices are going to be a year from now is not one of them. The best new year tip I can offer this year is, therefore, to suggest you quietly put all those forecasts in the wastepaper basket and get on with more fruitful and profitable research.

THE STOCK MARKET

How to spot a bargain in a rights offer

Shareholders need to be careful when a company offers new shares at seemingly discounted prices. John Andrew explains why.

"The company is having a sale to purchase those shares not of its shares!" You can imagine the reaction of a new shareholder receiving a letter offering more shares in the company for less than the current market price. The company is wanting to raise more capital from existing shareholders. However, it does not mean that the offer is a bargain.

Called a "rights issue" in City parlance, it is an exclusive share offer to existing shareholders with new shares being offered in a fixed proportion to current holdings - eg one new share for each 10 currently held. However, why offer the shares at a discount to the contrent market price?

Suppose a company with shares currently trading at £5 wanted to raise £10m. It could issue 2 million shares at £5: 4 milfion at £2.50 and so on, and fulfil its objective with each combination. It is unlikely that a company would wish to offer new shares at the current market price. This is because it would want a "safety net" against a

general decline in the market or against its own shares weakening after the announcement. Traditionally, rights issues

have been underwritten by a merchant bank. This means that by paying a fee, typically 2 per cent of the amount to be raised, the bankers undertake taken up by shareholders.

In the past, really big dis counts were uncommon. However, last month Bodycote, the metal treatment specialist, announced a one-for-four rights issue at a deeply discounted price of 500p, against a market price of 937p. The issue was not being underwritten. Possibly we shall see more deep discounting in the future.

However, whatever the level of discount, providing all other factors remain unaltered, the value of an investor's holding after the rights have been taken up will, theoretically, equal the value of the shares before the issue added to the cash paid to buy the new shares.

This is because, after the issue, the shares will settle at a level which is proportional to the amount at which the new shares were issued. Sounds complicated, but an example will make it clear.

Suppose an investor has 1,000 shares that before a rights issue trade at £5 each. If the



Buyers beware: A discount does not make a bargain in City parlance

company has a one-for-five rights issue at £4, 200 new shares may be purchased for £800. After taking up the rights the shareholder will have 1.200 shares. Theoretically, these will be worth £5,800 (£5,000, the pre-rights value, plus the £800 cost of the new issue). This means that, providing nothing else has altered, each share will now be worth £4.83.

If a shareholder is in theory no better off after a rights issue. it is tempting to ask why anyone bothers taking up rights. Of course, if a company puts money to good use, it will increase the value of its business and the value of its shares and dividends paid will eventually rise.

"Investors should examine why a company is raising new capital, says Gill Nott, chief executive of ProShare, the organ-

isation which promotes share ownership. "Some need it to finance sound business expansion, while others are simply paying off old debts and could fail if the money is not forthcoming. Shareholders should therefore not assume that all rights issues are worth taking up.

So how do you know if a rights issue is worthwhile? The company will advise shareholders on why it wants to raise capital. It will also send an allotment letter giving the terms of the offer. Every situation has to be assessed on its merits and your cashflow. Comment will appear in the financial press and you can also consult your stockbroker. If the issue is well-received, the rights will have a value. The

choices open to you are: Take up all the rights. Simply return the allotment letter, duly completed, with your cheque, by the deadline.

· Sell all the rights through a stockbroker. Remember, a commission will be charged. If your holding is small, this may not be economical.

· If you do nothing, or miss the deadline, the company will sell the rights to which you are entitled and send you the net proceeds. The advantage of this route is that your share of the selling costs will be minimal, but the sale may not be at the

most favourable time. Take up part of the rights and use the proceeds of the remaining to fund the transaction. However, when a company you invest in has a rights issue

the most important thing to re-

member is that "discount" is not

synonymous with "bargain".

6.69% (<u>7.0%</u> APR)

MORTGAGE RATE FIXED

UNTIL JANUARY 2003.

6.69%

With uncertainty about interest rates, now is the perfect time to know exactly what you will be paying until January 2003.

Some things won't be changing, like our new Fixed Rate Mortgage, fixed at

6.69% 7.0% APR until 1 January 2003.

If you are an existing customer on the move or a new mortgage customer, it's available up to 90% of the value of your property. Applicants must take out a Woolwich Homewise buildings and contents policy.

To find out how to fix your mortgage rate with Woolwich Direct, just call us for an immediate personal quotation quoting reference IX31. Hurry though, we may not be able to keep this offer open for long.

> Get much more with WOOLWICH DIRECT

Pensions by phone



24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you

can pick up the phone and get pensions

information or advice and even

set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your pension.

Please telephone quoting ref: 288D910 0345 6789 10 or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

For your protection, your calls to Scattish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scattish Widows products. Issued by Scattish Widows Tund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

22/PERSONAL FINANCE

It is remarkable to regard the optimism of City pundits for 1998. Given continuing turmoil in South-east Asia, and the fact we are three years into the domestic bull market, you would have thought a degree of caution in order. Yet a straw poll of the great and the good in the Square Mile showed all but one forecusting higher markets at the year end. Actually, the only person to predict lower share prices does not work for a hig City house, so you could say the industry professionals are unanimous in believing the bull run has further to go.

I hope they are right. Not only will it personal portfolios any harm. But the bull in reality this year is that price movements are more difficult to predict than usual.

Pressures arise from a number of different the City are more difficult to predict than usual. areas and it is hard to imagine markets skating between the various hazards without being upset, at least in some measure.

The big mistake by forecasters in 1997 was not predicting the continued bull run for US equities and the dollar. The fact that we in the UK outperformed America is less important in global investment terms. The US stock market accounts for very nearly half of world stock market *Goldilocks** scenario – an economy neither too hot nor too cold - proved to hold good. The porridge may be a different temperature by the end of this year, though.

There are plenty, like Professor Tim Congdon, who consider inflation the real where successive devaluations will deliver place fast!

INTERNET INVESTOR

attempt to offer online dealing facilities for unit trusts and personal equity plans

(PEPs). Fidelity Investments' Fidelity

WebXpress website now offers the ability

to switch between unit trusts or PEP in-

vestments. Later this month investors will

be able to buy more units or top up their

PEP by entering Switch or Delta debit card

The site also allows you to analyse your

holdings by creating portfolios to your own

specification. This includes the ability to

produce graphs showing assets by fund, by

asset class and by geographical or industry

breakdown. Other tools available include

details on to an online form.

BRIAN TORA



Plenty of

huge price advantages as the year unfolds. Asian problems will contribute to a slowing in the world economy, so deflation looks just as big a problem for the future. The pundits must hope we can continue to weave our way between these two particular perils.

Markets believe deflation to be the most likely outcome, if bonds are anything capitalisation. And in America the to go by. The strength of fixed interest markets around the world was remarkable in 1997, with only the aftershock of the Asian crisis reminding Third World debt investors that risk carries a premium. Equities were remarkably composed. While the excesses of Asian countries enemy. Labour costs are set to rise in the were hardly likely to be reflected among US. Everyone wanting a job in America developed nations, the sharp falls in curcan probably have one, such is the rencies and share values served as a restrength of the employment market - but . minder that markets can move into competitive pressures seem certain to reverse very swiftly these days. Global emerge, particularly from the Far East money flows ensure corrections take

Fund managers pep up their websites

The new year has begun with a serious a currency conversion table, a glossary and tracker fund unit trust and PEP and

pages. These are updated on a daily basis

with current net asset values and market

news. More detailed fund performance

offered initially to existing Fidelity cus-

tomers. But, by the middle of the year, it

and selling without the need for signatures.

marks a significant step forward in what

The introduction of Fidelity WebXpress

information is also available.

Perhaps we all have a vested interest in the main markets delivering reasonable returns, but if that were the case, Japan would not have been the dog it has been. Again, rather interestingly, City experts all expect a recovery in the fortunes of the Nikkei Dow. Even the outsider thought this market offered reasonable value, although he warned that bottom fishing in the Japanese sea was perilous.

Personally, I think 1998 will be a difficult year. The first conventional Labour Budget is unlikely to deliver cheer to investors, while signs of upward pressure on wages should mean no early easing of the interest rate policy adopted by the Bank of England. Institutional cash flows, and a belief that the UK offers a cheap way into Europe, may prevent our market from suffering a severe setback. but I would be surprised if we saw much in the way of overall profit.

But a stock market is a market of stocks, so there will be winners and losers as the year unfolds. Who would have guessed the best performing FTSE 100 company to be British Gas? Banks did well during 1997, even if HSBC lost most of its outperformance as Far Eastern pressures built. The coming year may not see such wild swings, but I believe it will be a year when a defensive posture will prove sensible.

I hope 1998 is the year when smaller companies return to favour, although it is hard to see them bucking the trend of recent years. Concentrate instead on the well-managed international companies that will to be of interest to global investors. And spend as much time enjoying vourself as you can - just in case the Asian tiger turns nasty before the year ends.

Brian Toru is chairman of the Greig Middleton investment strategy committee

Merchant bank Flemings offers a range

of Luxemburg-based offshore funds and in-

vestors may deal online through the Flem-

ings Rapide dealing service. However, it does

www.webxpress.fidelity.co.uk

netPEP: www.netpep.co.uk

Sanwa: www.sanwa.iii.co.uk

– Robin Amlôt

BEST BORROWING RATES

İ	- 1			period	354 g		
I		MORTGAGES					
i	- 1	FIXED RATE					
ļ	- 1	Scarborough BS	0900 133149	1.25% to 1.1.99	. 25%	0 759	i —
Į	- 1	Northern Rock	0800 591500	3 99% to 1.2.00	75%	5395	_
ı	- 1	Bristol & Wesl	0800 119955	5.89% to 1.1.07	.90%	5295	
ı	- 1	VARIABLE DISCOUNT	ED RATES				
ı		Scarborough BS	0956 133149	4.50% for 2 years	60%	9250	
ı				5.95% for 3 years			
l	- [Brackord, & Biogley BS	0800 570800	7.00% for 5 years	255	_	E-mails have ASO
I	- 1	FIRST TIME BUYERS	FIXED RATES				
ı	- 1	Wootelch	0800 400900	4 99% 10 1 1.00	95%	2350	<u> </u>
ı	- 1	Leeds & Holbech BS	0500 225777	6.24% to 1.2 01	95%	5295	_
l	- [.	Simmingham Mids BS	01902 302000	6,75% to 31.1.03	95%	2795	- 10.000
l		FIRST TIME BUYERS					
l		Universal BS	0800 281496.	2.45% for 1 year	954,	226	4 1 4 2 7
ı		FirstMortgage	0800 080088	4 70 for 2 years	90%	2295	_
		Naderwide BS	0800 302010	6,85% for 5 years	95% .	. 5295	Retund of value ise
ı	- 1						

ļ	Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Rixed m
UNSECURED				With it
Direct Line Capital One Direct	8181 680 9966 0800 216252			£183.75 £159 4

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

SECURED (SECON	D CHARGE)		Max LTV Adv	Term
Clydesdale Bank	0300 240024	9.7% Neg	92K to £1.5K	6 mms to 25 ye
Royal Bank of Scotta	na 0800 131121	10.7% 70%	52 5K to \$100k	3 years to retire
First Owner	0345 100163 .	11.2% 50%	£3K to Neg	Up to 40 years
OVERDRAFTS				
			Advarsed	Unauthorised
}	Telephone	\$000mmi	,%am APA	% part APR
Alliance & Leibester	0500 959595	ALLANCE	0.76% S.5%	2.20% 298

€166.54

26.5%

11.0%

0.97% - 12.2%

203%

27.3%

ank of Scottand	0500 BD4804	Direct Cheque
Romwide BS	0500 302010	Perception
REDIT CARE)S	

aokai One Sank	0800 669000	Vict.		0.64% N	7905 N 🗯	54 0203
Co-operative Bank	0800 109000	Advantage Visa		0.64% %	7 90% N KII	O days
iobert RemegiS&P	0800 829100	Blasse Radia Libidi	15V	1 00%	14.00% N	55 Ca rs
IOLD CARDS						
o-operative Bank	0345 212212	Base Rate Visa	220K	0.60%	11 90% \$120	46 (345
o-operative Bank	0800 109000	Advantage Visa	220K	0548 N	7 90% N. NE	O days
INSTIGAT EXCITES	91273 620555	Arnex -	£20K	0.75% N	12,60% N FMK	56 days
	Telephone	Payment by da	eca debri	Paymen	t by other methods	i
		% PM	APR	574	APR	
oton Lewis	Via store	1 39%	15.0%	1.39%	1817	

25 8%

. Viz skore · 1 94% 25 9% 2.20% 29.8% A - Minimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or tender's existin

01244 681681 1 93%

N - Introductory rate for a fimited period

BEST SAVINGS RATES

	Tetephone . ownber	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	interval
INSTANT ACCI	SS	·	-4 · ··			
Clydesdafe Bank	100 4505					
Mookrich	0800 222200	Cerd Saver	instant	£50	7.00%	Year
Portegen PS	PER SECOND		754	*******		
aeds & Holbeck	9500 225777	Prendum Access	instant	£5,000	6 90%	Year
NSTANT ACC	ESS POSTAL	ACCOUNTS		· :		
CARLO WILLIAMS SERV	PAC SERVICE			TO V. P.		
ug.		Anglant Transfer	Instant (8)	21.000	7.25%	Year
हा है दिशासको है।		De la Company				
ance & Leicesser	0845 _, 608 6860	First Class Instant		-210,000		•
OTICE ACCO	UNTS & BON	DS		:: <u>.</u>		•
dol & Wast	000 APRIL					
alf. General Bank	0500 111200	EST Direct	OD DOMES	ta unn	7 69E	Shar
steets Rock	1500 25000					
	0171 203 1650			52,801		
IEQUE ACCO	UNTS					
denor's Beating	0000 317472					
estec Bank (UK)	0171 203 1850	HICA 5000	instant	25.000	6 45%	Monthly
	01-22 35533		多数等 於	EUMBO -	Direction of	
isea BS	0800 429429		instant .	210,000		Year
XED RATE BO	DNDS			-		
idal K What	0806 202 129					
anville Benk		Fixed Rate Bond	1 Year	£20,000		
		- Begi Dates Builde				
		Fixed Option Bond 3		£10.000		
RST TESSAS						
a Renther Com	ne to teacher		YW			
ester Bark (UK)		Premier with feeder at		29.000	7.85%	Apor.
osalet BS		gatters neve		and a		
offord & Bingley BS			5 Year.		7.75	Year
LLOW-ON T	FSSAS				- ·.	
					* حامه د	C-884
diordable 8S	U1900: 317485	i e kir en na e heretina kir um u	3 NA	29,000	7.85%	Year

String to the State of the Stat

King garage

per and see es

- E22

ا المحلق ع المستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة الماستشقطة ا

Company of the second

ود و در و دورو و او ا

建 * FE C +-

The second second second

DATE /4405

ARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)	
bid Assered QSSR 879820	THE THIRD ESTATE OF
om Assured 0600 838020 om Assured 0600 838020	2 Year £10,000 6.50% PN Year
bro Assured Q800 538020	4 Year £10,000 6.00% FN Year
oro Assesses 0690 838020	5 Year - 23 200 5 005 FM 106

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (GROSS)

besbire Goernsey (.30	Instant Offstore	Ø1487-200580	MCTO A	£10,000	7.004	*
neshire Goernsey Ltd	Instant Offshore	B1481 700680	Instant	225,000	7.25	Y
orthorn Rock Guent	Offices 60	OP481 748821	+ 80 Days	£10000	7.697 -	· ·Ý
orthern Rock Guern	Offshore 60	01481 718121	60 Day	250.000	B.00%	Y
IATIONAL SAV	INGS ACCOU	INTS (GROSS)			

	1 0000	_ (24	(417)	in a
			5.25%	
the state of the s	و درسند د	12,500	3.03	198
•		£10,000	5 75%	Vegr
		23.00	586	
- Constr	2 Marth	C-3 COC	7.000 · NA	_
o currents - The Control of the - The Control of th		15.00	技术学	1 17:
I Bonds Series J			6.65% F.Mate	-
Option Schols				

Childrens Boad Issue H (tax free) B - Withdrawais via Bank Clearing System

P - By post only

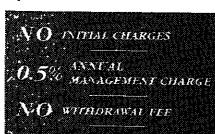
18 Dec 1997

The Index-Tracking PEP

WHAT MAKES LEGAL & GENERAL'S FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX-TRACKING PEP **OUTSTANDING VALUE FOR MONEY?**

glance at the table will show that A - since its launch two years ago - this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors superb value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stock-



market, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, a lump sum of \$6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch would now be worth £8,623° compared to just £7,975* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

With no initial charges deducted, more of your money is invested at

the outset for maximum growth potential, there are no withdrawal fees and with an annual

value for money is outstanding. So make the most of today's opportunities. For further details (including information on our monthly saving option) call now or visit our web site at http://www.

legal-and-general.co.uk

management charge of 0.5% - the

INVESIMENT PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH NOV 95 TO DEC 97 Legal & General 0.50% 43.72% 42.33% Virgin 1.00% A. 44.353 warage CK Inco Growth Trust

help screens, and the site has links to . Sanwa Investment Management's five unit

Fidelity's new UK service is being not yet offer its UK unit trusts on the web.

expects to be welcoming new customers on- Fidelity Investments: www.fidelity.co.uk

line as well, opening accounts and buying Fidelity WebXpress:

is available on the Web. Both netPEP's Flemings: www.flemings.lu

Fidelity's main website and fund pricing trusts require a signature sent by post.

The FTSE All-Share **Index-Tracking PEP that** performs the best

> 4 Most PEPs charge 1% or more annually and also have other charges when you first invest."

Find	out	more	now-	phone	free	050011	66 22
FREEPHO	NE 8am	TO Som WI	CEKDAYS 9am	TO Som WI	TERRYDS	DIESELOLOTEI	UEE CARA

YES -1 would like more inf Post to: Legal & General	ormation about the Legal (& Genera OST SWC	l Index Tr 0167, Card	acking PEP. iff CF1 1YW.
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)	Forenames			
Address				
Postcode	Date of birth	,	7	

ted in an Ol. 11.95 (since Jaunch) to Ol. 12.97, Past down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing in equity based unit trusts. Buth capital and income values that statements are correct as at 10 12 m. The convernment published a consultative document in December 1997 on proposals for individual Savings Accounts (EAS) to be launched in All Savings accounts (EAS) to be launched in the consultative to the consultative considered as part of the consultative Legis & Consultativ April 1999. The terms and imites for converting an existing PEP into an ISA are being considered as part of the con-No. 2 (12) will Registered office. Temple Court, II Queen Victoria Street, London ECAN ATP Representative only of the

TAX-FREE

FROM THE WOOLWICH.



The many foresighted investors who put money into the Woolwich UK Stockmarket Fund PEP at launch in January 1991 have seen their money grow by an average of 13%* every year.

136%* TOTAL RETURN

In other words, they have more than doubled their money. For example, £6,000 invested at launch would

now be worth £14,173.80*. And because PEPs are completely tax-free, they can keep every penny.

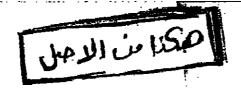
If you'd like to join them, it couldn't be easier. You can invest as little as £25 a month or a lump sum of anything from £500 up to £6,000. And you have the reassurance that your money is invested mainly in solid blue-chip British companies like Shell, Glaxo Wellcome

The friendly advisers at any Woolwich branch will be happy to give you further details. Alternatively, call us today, free, for an information pack quoting reference ISF3/1. For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded.

Get much more with the

WOOLWICH 0345 62 63 62

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INCOME EARNED IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.



23/PROPERTY

The brand new property boom that's gone sky-high

Their attractions include exposed beams, thatched roofs, reclaimed barn boards and baked clay tiles: No double glazing, though, and living tends to be open plan, but there are the communal gardens and – unless there is a squabble over vacant possession - the transaction is usually chain-free. Rosalind Russell takes a peek at bird

500 500 500 500 500 500

2500 6 80%

\$7.50 SA

eren in

e arm

... 950 7.132

C FEE COM

Face Tight

700 - 105 700 - 105

SICING - PARE NO.

PER CARE

1175 James

R C Ko

Houses for birds, it seems, are every bit as des res as our own. And their potential owners are no less picky than people when it comes to finding exactly the right style, position and facilities.

House-hunting swifts, says the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, fly past a likely nest site brushing the entrance with their wings. Any incumbent responds by screaming vigorously and grappling with its feet until the intruder is ejected. Tits will happily nest next to robins or wrens, but not next to anoth-

er pair of tits. Problems with the neighbours are not confined to costing £24.99, but there are homo sapiens. As a result, the number and varying design of bird houses to suit all tastes avian and humans - is remarkable. Whether your home is a Victorian villa or a period thatched cottage, you'll find an annexe for your feathered lodgers that won't upset the planning officer.

The mail order company Presents Direct sells a bird house in kit form, consisting of real miniature bricks and roofing tiles made of baked clay, and with enough mortar to build it, for £24.95 (plus p&p). Just the job for a builder twiddling his thumbs with nothing to do after the New Year when the weather is atrocious.

The Shaker Shop (there are two stores in London and a mail order service) offers folk art bird houses and feeders, made by hand from old materials, including barn boards and tin, collected from farms in Pennsylvania.

The paint finish is aged to give the houses character, although it's unlikely even the most difficult to please bird is going to give a hoot. They are in limited editions and therefore not going cheap. The gazebo bird feeder is £149.95 and the turret house, with several front doors, is £149.95. A more modest little white house is £36.95 and there is a matching restaurant, for days when they just have to eat out, at £29.95.

The RSPB has several pages of houses and feeders in its current catalogue. A plastic, thatch-look cottage bird feeder is the most popular, nest boxes to suit almost everybody, including house

martins. Designed especially for them, and costing £15.99, the house martin nest has to be installed permanently under the eaves of a house (preferably painted white or cream, they are quite particular about

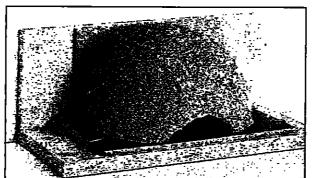


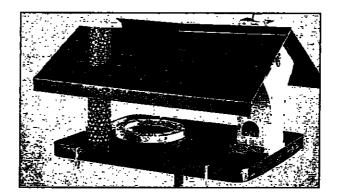
If you're planning or feathering your own nest this year, why not invest in a scaleddown second property...

Main picture: Lighthouse bird box from The Maritime Company, £14.95

Above right: House martin nest from the RSPB catalogue. £15.99

Below right: Bird lodge from the RSPB catalogue, £29.99





architectural finishes). The idea is to encourage other pairs to build their own nearby, but house martins are as fussy about their wattle and daub as English Heritage. Any old mud will not do. And, as each nest needs a thousand beakfuls of the stuff, a ready supply must be within 200 metres.

CJ Wildbird Foods near Shrewsbury sell a mud pack for martins, consisting of a green tray, a bottle of blue dye and 3kg of mud (£7.99). All you have to do is keep it wet. The dye is added to the mud to make it easier to spot the new building site.

Forsham Cottage Arks in Ashford Kent make bird houses to suit everything from two turtle doves to six geese a-laying. Some, including the Tenterden which has four floors, housing 20 pairs of birds, come into the stately home class of property. Not for the suburban garden, they point out, possibly unnecessarily, as it costs £1,411, delivered but not erected.

Slightly cheaper is the Lamberhurst, thatched £987.60 in white, £897.60 in brown. These cotes are sent to a master thatcher to be thatched. Even an Oriental garden can be accommodated: the Willow, painted red, green or blue, has a pagoda-style roof and costs £728.90 including delivery (less if you collect it yourself).

For tits bringing up their families by the seaside, the red, blue and white painted beacon house from the Maritime Company is one of the most charming B&Bs. The solid wood, 12-inch high bird box, in the shape of a lighthouse costs £14.95, plus p&p.

For the RSPB gift brochure call 01283 506100 (for leaflets on different nest boxes, 01767 680551); Presents Direct, 0171-371 7017; Shaker 25 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT, 0171-724 7672, and at 322 Kings Road, SW3 5DU; CJ Wildbird Foods 01743 709545; Forsham Cottage Arks 01233 820229; Maritime Company 01993 770450.

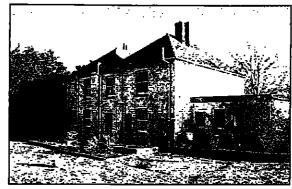
THREE TO VIEW/UNDER £160,000



The White House in Alrewas, five miles from Lichfield in Staffordshire, is a Grade II thatched house with beamed ceilings and an inglenook fireplace. There is one bedroom on the ground floor and two more rooms on the first floor, although, says the agent, they have restricted headroom so would be more suitable as guest rooms, or study. There's an overgrown cottage garden and a detached garage. £120,000 through Bill Tandy (01543 419400).



Oak Cottage in West Wellow, Hampshire is a listed thatched cottage near the New Forest. Dating from the 18th century, it was extended and renovated in the 1980s, the 19ft sitting room has French doors to the terrace and a door to the dining room. There are two bedrooms, a bathroom with roll top bath and a double garage. The secluded 88ft rear garden includes a vegetable garden and shed. £155,000 through James Harris (01794 511911)



The Black Bull is currently a pub in Newchurch, overlooking Romney Marsh in Kent, but planning consent has been submitted for change of use to a house. It presently has bar space of 34ft by 26ft, plus a barrel store, a 15ft kitchen and five bedrooms. Old black metal ducks' nest grates, panelled doors and exposed floorboards remain. The quarter-acre gardens are partly walled. Offers of around £155.000 to Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338).

PENNY **JACKSON**

While you are making New Year resolutions, sorting out your accommodation needs over the coming 12 months makes eminent sense. Penny Jackson offers a few tips of her own.

Sensible advice for vendors: slow down, you move too fast

If neighbours' all-night parties over the holiday have proved the final push towards hanging about. To be somewhere new by as any. As more housing stock comes on to the market, buyers are no longer going to be rushed for fear of finding themselves without a home of their own when the music stops.

As is clear from the last quarter of the year prices, in London certainly, had slowed and over-valued houses were being reduced. All the more reason to choose a selling agent carefully. Those who come up with optimistically high figures should be asked how many houses or flats they have sold in the area at that price and to produce the evidence.

Pretend to be a buyer and find out whether the story is the same from the oth-

agents to view your home so you can make comparisons, not just on the matters of a move, then there is not much point in commission and marketing, but to see whether they have a feel for the strengths this time next year, is as good a resolution of the property. Remember, if they don't impress you, they are not likely to impress buyers either.

If you have confidence in your home and you want to save some 2 per cent of the sale price, why not try selling it privately. Estate agents will point out the pitfalls, such as you will not get as much since you may be ignorant of the demand, the problems with buyers reneging on agreements and so on.

But plenty of people have a go. Quite a number fall back on agents in desperation but those who have advertised effectively, weeded out the no-hopers, built up a good rapport with the buyer and seen the sale through smoothly wouldn't do it er side of the fence. Invite a few local any other way. Once you have decided to demand in 1998, which is good for home-

put your home on the market, take a critical look at it and list the things that make it look wearv and down at heel. Clean windows, a fresh coat of neutral coloured paint and a smartening up of any front garden (much neglected in agents' views) all help with first impressions. A small investment of time and money can pay much larger dividends.

This is a good time to take stock of your home loan, whether you are moving or staying put. Anyone sitting on a mortgage with a standard variable rate without penalties attached should look at the fixed rate market since there are still some excellent offers around - mainly because this market has not reacted to recent variable rate increases.

Ian Darby of John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, sees the supply of mortgage money continuing to outstrip

owners. But beware of redemption penalties. If a discounted rate for two years is followed by three locked into a variable rate, you could end up regretting it. And anyone with spare cash should consider paying off all or part of a loan.

As we enter the most expensive quarter for fuel bills, this is the moment to track down the source of those draughts. If you have insulated your roof, lagged the pipes. draught-proofed the windows and doors and still the bills are huge it may be a simple matter of getting your boiler serviced and learning about the heating controls.

Apparently the extremes of temperature that many homes lurch between are not only costly, but will not prevent burst pipes if the heating happens to be off during an icy spell. And if anyone with an old house is thinking of having secondary glazing installed, the payback period on heat-

SPECIAL

No Fee to

84B Camden Rd

London NW1 9EA

USA

Tenants

RATES

years, according to English Heritage. Only 20 per cent of heat is lost through windows and sash windows can be effectively draught-proofed and still look good.

Could this be the year not to move, but to improve and stay put? Since clearly far fewer numbers of people have the appetite for unnecessary moves they must have been carving the space from somewhere. Roof space is an obvious winner, and a good loft conversion can double the living area. Specialist companies, well recom-

mended, are cheaper than employing your own architect, structural engineer and builder. Even if planning permission is not necessary, an application under building regulations must be lodged with the local authority. An unauthorised cowboy job is not only dangerous, but can cause enormous trouble when the house eventually ing bills could take anything from 20 to 60 comes to be sold.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

£100pm

£250pt

MAJOR REGIONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Auctions

Haydock Park Racecourse Merseyside _ 29th January 1998 Mainly By Order of The Mortgagees including the

Halifax Pic 75 Lots

Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Newcastle Upon Tyne, County Durham, Lincolnshire, West Yorkshire, Flintshire, Cheshire, North Yorkshire, Denbighshire, East Ridings Of Yorkshire,

Lancaster, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Cleveland. Calls to this number cost 39 p/min cheap rate, 49 p/min at all other times. For a tax list (this may involve a long call) please call the number below for further inform

> TELEPHONE 0839 772202 GA General Accident Property Services

FOR CATALOGUE ENQUIRIES PLEASE

Country Property

SELLING OR RENTING your home? Why not advertise in the independent or the lodepardent on Sunday? You can reach over 1.4 million readers restorably (MRS-97). This advert would cost you £41.60 + VAT. Please ist. 0171 293 2002/2343 for into-

Gloucestershire

AINSWICK Georgian Grada II listed 5/6 bed house, 2 beth, age likehen. Secure reer gerden. Friendly village all amerilies 51,000pcm. 61452 512 761

AND CAN SO !!

East Anglia

FREE - Abbotts 40 page full colour Hometinder Brochure, 190's of properties 17/out Norfolk & Suf-ioR, £25,000 to £500,000. Tel. 01284 759628 COUNTRY HOUSES & Cottages in Suffolk & Essex. Peter Andrews 01449 740090

BATH - OVERLOOKING river, Spa-clous 2 bed flat. CH. Undercover parking. Easy walk city centre. 190,000. 01225 722390.

SERVING KINGS X. CAMDEN, ISLINGTON 0171 700 5129/5729

London Property

4 BED

HOUSE

ROAD,

HORNSEY

HOUSE **CALABRIA ROAD** £267,500 Highbury and Islington **Prime Location**

UNMODERNISED

£189,950 4 BED 3/4 BED FLAT **TOWN** TUFNELL PARK HOUSE, ROAD ISLINGTON

£185,000 £184,950 MORE INSTRUCTIONS URGENTLY REQUIRED CLAPHAM SW4 STUNNING Int STANLEY JEROME GRAY : M20

STANLEY JEROME GRAY: N20
Whotstone Dish 368 6307.
THE BOW QUARTER Delightful grd
fir apt in mis popular complex.
LIK 118 yrs. Facilities: I/poot,
gym. sauna, jacuzzi, bar shops.
24hr porterage. Owned sep pkg.
15 mins City Central dishrict &
DLR access 5 mins was.
E109.995.0161 863 3439.
ETZROVIA, Soho and W1, Wide
selection of 1.2, 3 bed Apts and
houses. From £145,000 RI+B
D171 637 0821 rior designed 4 bed, 2 beth has in sought after Abbeville Village. £325,000. 0171 7202376. SELLING OR RENTING your home? Why not advertise in the independent or the independent on Sunday? You can reach over 1.4 million readers nationally (MRSSY). This advert would cost you \$41.80 + VAT. Please 1st. 0171 283 2302/2343 for into



Bright and spacous flat on rassed ground floor of a detached Georgian house overfooling Capitam Common Large living room and bedroom, separate letchen, high ceilings and many characterial leastness including original shutters. Immoculate condition. Gas central heading, alarm, electronic security gates and different perfong ion negotiation with tresholdent Cose to latte, BR, buses and all amenates 120 year lease 122,000 SHAFTESBURY Telephone 0181 673 9924

Internet Find a Property SALES AND RENTALS

Richmond, Kingston, Kew Twickenham, Chiswick Putney, Wimbledon Esher. Weybridge www.findaproperty.com

Herefordshire LEOBURY, Heretordshire Renova-tion of Hall outbuildings and grounds to create 17 residential units set in 16 Acres on edge of fown. Spacious apartments, 2 bed lodge, 4 bed detached new build. Prices 1110,000 - 1300,000 Contact Agonts John Goodwn, 3/5 New Street, Ledwy, Here-fordshire, 01531 634648 THE COST OF BUYING YOUR PRESHOLD OR EXTENDING YOUR LEASE Summary and analysis of approx. 166 Leasehold faluation Tribunal decisions on flat owners' claims under Leasehold Reform Act, 1993. Compares Lessees', Landlords' and Tribunals' valuations for approx. 600 flats. Includes Lands Tribunal and landlords' fees ons. Invaluable reference work for sett

Approximately 61 pages. Extracts on http://www.leasehold.co.uk £25 including pp (Visa/Mastercard accept LEASEHOLD ENFRANCHISEMENT LIMITED Chartered Surveyors, 33 St. George's Drive, London SW1V 4DG

Tel: 0171 821 8820, Fax: 0171 821 8897

Overseas Property

SPAIN - PLONEA - FRANCE - PORTECU. GREECE - CTPAINS - MELAND - EXLY, EYC monthly, for your free copy tele-phone (0181) 947 1834 or http://www.french-property-FREE MAGAZINES Do ann in per year PREE copy of the URA happer revenue priparily classifies. Patient with most genters for land assign empets. A tempe, gain bridly financials of more in. As other publications other you ago. & Studio. with pool & garden Wonderful views, easy access. A nouse to be content in £160,000 one, Tel:00351 &2 332 081

ono, Tero0351 82 332 091
CENTRAL FLORIDA Homes Nr Disney, built for you by a British
builder. Letting agreements avail
with a British Agent Cail David
Motralia 01255 702085
CYPRUS 3 bed visia, Inge, dining.
kt, eauna, ige potio. 12.5m pool.
a/c. c/t. 25 acre. 15mins Paghos
a/porl. £140,000 T.fax 357 6
422575

propriets. The date publication of the publication

Tel 01248 670006

or Zara White on 0171 293 2302.

LORIDA Homes in Orlando and Gutl Coast, Business opp. avail.

To advertise in the **Property Section** please call Albert Blackburn on 0171 293 2343

REGENT LETTING LTD Tel: 0171 916 0313 Fax: 0171 916 1607 £115pv

FLATSHARE, HENDON
2 rooms available. Rent methodes all bills and council tax
STUDIO FLAT. N17 LANDLORDS Large bedroom and living room with small Litchen area. Shared be STUDIO FLAT, CAMDEN, NWI Large studio with separate kitchen and bathroom.

Includes bot water and heating.

QUEENS PARK, We

One bedroom flat with fully fixed kitchen and washing me One bedroom fat with FUFNELL PARK

To Let

TUPNELL PARK
Two double bedroom flat with huge kunge and fully fitted kitchen and garden. Two minutes from Tufnell Park tube.

CAMDEN TOWN, NWI
Gorgeous one bedroom flat tumfurnished) with large kunge and fully fitted kitchen with dishwasher, washing machine, oh and phone in private block with samm and gym facilities.

MAYTON STREET, NY
Lovely one double bedroom flat with large kunge and fully fitted kitchen with washing machine and garden.

BRUGES PLACE, CAMDEN NWI
Lowery one bedroom flat in prime location, features fully fitted kitchen with washing machine, dishwasher, central heating and phone, large lounge, both and electric shower. £300p £180pv £300p LEIGHTON GROVE, KENTISH TOWN NWI

Luxury two bedroom flat, furnished to a high standard with large lounge and fully litted ketchen with washing machine, dishwasher, cruiral heating and entry phone, plus two bethrooms.

blahed studio and converted 1 bed fists. Unfurnished from £250pm. Morton Thorogood 0171 724 3530 FLORIDA ORLANDO. DEPOSIT just £19,750 to gwm a lat F/H del 3 bed 2 bath vills + own s/pool. Freephone 0800 7315541. WW6 PERIOD 2 bed flat 2 beth new kit, newly refurblshed, £380pw.

kit, newly refur 0171 395 5100. Spain

BARBICAN EC2 SELECTION of 1,2 and 3 bed aperts from £200 pw. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414. France

ANGUEDOC NR. UZES/BARLIA

LANGUEDOC NR. UZES/BARJAC Luxury Village house. Swimming pool. Large walled gerden, Siespo 8. Rent seasonal 2,000f -10,000f/week. Tel. 00 336 66 24 48 48. CHAMONIX. French alps. Studio, 20 m sq. et season lettings. 125,000, 01225 447899

cious family townhouse,unturn, 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, kti/b*tas-trm, garage, petic. C250, 0171 395 5100 W9 V SPACIOUS 2 bed 2 beth flat. porter, newly furn, iga recep. \$390pm 0171 395 5100. ISLINGTON M1: Lovely furnished studio room. Own bathroom. Share klichen. Non-smoker. £435pen all inclusive. Tel: 0171 254 4579

CLERKENWELL EC1 SELECTION of 2 bed/2 beth aparts 2350-380 pw. Also superb Loft £425 pw. Daniel Webney 0171 253 4414.

WESTMINSTER V SPAC 3 bed flat, 2 baths, 2 receps, porter, pkg, Viurn, immac cond, balc, nr tube, £850pw, 0171 395 5100.

STH KEN NEW 3 bed unturn has in maws. Lge lot, 2 bins gge. £700pw. 0171 395 5100.

T JOHNS WOOD Modern soa

Churchill exhibition shows an artist in his true colours



More than 100 paintings by Sir Winston Churchill will go on show on Monday. The two-week exhibition at Sotheby's in London is intended to introduce a new generation to the wartime leader's work

The exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of his election to the Royal Academy as an Honorary Academician Extraordinary. Churchill took up painting in 1915 at the age of 40 after he was forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty at the height of the

Dardanelles campaign in the First World War. It became a passion which he pursued until his death in 1965. He once remarked: "If it weren't for the painting I couldn't live. I couldn't bear the strain of things."

His paintings were often influenced by artists Walter Sickert and Sir John Lavery, who were close friends.

In his essay "Painting as a Pastime", from which the exhibition takes its name, the former prime minister wrote: "Painting is a friend who makes no undue demands, excites no exhausting pursuits, keeps faithful pace even with feeble steps, and holds her canvas as a screen between us and the envious eyes of Time or the sultry advances of Decrepitude."

A 1927 landscape by Churchill which he gave to Lloyd George sold for £150,000 recently - nearly three times as much as was

The works in the exhibition have been gathered from private collections around the country and from the National Trust. The exhibition will also feature paintings by Sickert and Lavery as well as a reconstruction of Churchill's studio.

- David Lister





Lasting impressions: A bronze statue of Churchill, cast in 1969 by Oscar Nemon, and some of the former prime minister's paintings (clockwise from left) - Mrs Winston Churchill at the launch of HMS Indomitable, 1940 (1955); Marrakech (circa 1947); Cop d'Ail (1952); and Oranges and Lemons (1958). More than 100 of the wartime leader's works, and the Nemon statue, will be on show at Sotheby's from 5 to 17 January Main photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Ultimate Specification!

132Mb or 64Mb RAM 32Mb RAM memory for running the most demanding programs. Massive 84Mb RAM can our best buy 200M-2 and 233M-2 models further enhances the performance and allows you to run multiple applications at the same brine. 4.3Gb or 6.4Gb Hard Disk

Massive Seegate 4.33b drive or 6.43b (or 233M-2) gives the storage you are ever likely to need. Fast Ultra ATA (UDMA) interface with double maximum performance. ✓ 56K Voice Modem

Latest Rockwell 56K liash upgsateable modern converts your PC into a powerful for machine, all test internet connection with electronic mall (e-madata comme and full-leature voice mail facilities.

✓ VideoPhone Receive

 ■ 4Mb Advanced Graphics SIS advanced graphics using 4Mb system RAM, MPEG and Microsoft direct 3D support possible with

Speech Recognition

EM Shiply Speaking GOLD voice recognition
software allows you to command many PC turns PCTV with Teletext Full leakure advanced PC-TV system with Teletent and video capture is included on the 233-2 and 23384-2 models

200 & 233 Processors with MMX- Technology WITTE WINKS - IECTINOLOGY
The 200M system with 200Ms (nielé Penium's
processor with MADC * 200Ms (nielé Penium's
performance then 165M systems. The 'best buy'
200M-2 system provides broedbile power and
cusperiorms our 23M-2-2 Penium it processor
based systems. The new 233M-2 system provides
the highest performance.



RAM. It also includes extra

This amazing 200M Home+

PC with Intel® Pentium® 200Mhz

Technology includes an incredible

specification at just £936 +VAT.

ovides even more power and is

The 'best buy' 200M-2

in fact faster than our 32Mb

233-2 Pentium II processor based

system, due to the amazing IBM X processor with MMX

FREE PRINTER Epson Stylus Color 300 Iniget Printer included with 200M and 233-2 models. Higher spec dual carifidge Epson Stylus Color 400 Printer included with 200M-2

and 233M-2 models Limited offer, First 2000 orders only Home+ Media 'S' Models

Freephone Time Now!

Offer Ends 11th January

titles on CD.

The new 233M-2 system

provides the highest performance,

features a larger 6.4Gb hard drive

and a PCTV system with Teletext.

But remember you must order early to claim your FREE Epson

All systems also include IBM

Simply Speaking GOLD voice

recognition software.

Pay Nothing Until June 98. Interest Free Credit Include larger promium
products larger promium
products and a search bundle
of PC (psyclich, heades)
informationede does on
13 CDs, at only CS9 + VAT

= [ET18.33 Inc. VAT) ones.
2004 Let PS (197 SS)

200M Home+ PC

£936-

£1099:80

£1069.

£1189

Intel® Perthant* 300Mits proc

· 24x Max. speed LG CD-ROM

44b SIS advanced graphics

· 3D ESS veretable acund

IBM Speech Recognition (microphone optional)
 VDOnet VideoPhone racewe and carvers interface

14" SVGA M 0.23dp calour screen (15" 259" + VAT = 231 08 and 17" 2219+VAT = 2257 33 exist)

ard Statures: Windows 95, 105 keyboard, 1 44Mb Noppy Pal2 mouse, all standard ports, 2 USB ports, year 2000

PC-2 Models with TV and Teletext

233-2 TV Home+ PC

233M-2 TV Home+ PC

Soundlance S25 stares mains exercises

FREE Epoco Stylus Color 300 Printer (

200M-2 Home+ PC

ATX 7 bay said-tower with PC97 mo

- 32Mb EDC RAM • 43Gb sière ATA hard disk

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

ଡ ସ⊅ ଚ ●

TOMORROW IN THE



My life with John

Yoko speaks in Section Two

God: a CV

The Sunday Review examines the spiritual state of the nation

صكذا من الاعل

Pice

ಸಕ್ಷಮ್ಯ ಎಂದಿನ್ನು gent Littelle and the thought الجدائلة فعدة دامعت ب Electrical Constitution

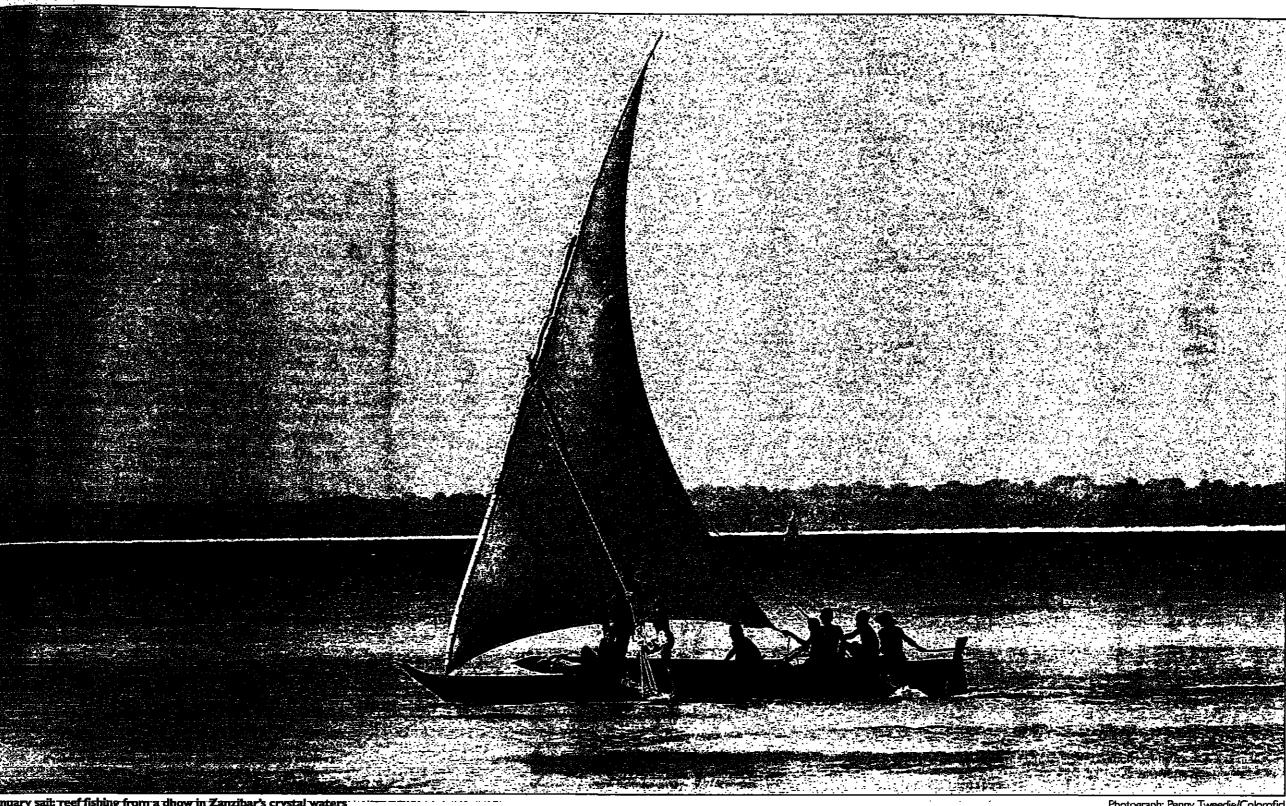
applications Total

Semie 2

TIMEOFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 3 January 1998



The life of spice

Few names conjure up such romance and mystery as that of Zanzibar, off the east coast of Africa. But, as Richard Holledge discovered, much of the appeal lies in its picturesque shabbiness.

On the island of Chunguu, 20 minutes by motor boat from Zanzibar, three or four hours by dhow, a sign sweetly declaims the pleasures of the place, warns the visitor against destroying the coral reef and ends with this familiar admonition:

Take only pictures, Leave only footprints in the sand."

The message takes on a degree of urgency as Zanzibar transforms itself into yet another holiday spot blessed with the essentials for the Western traveller: a beach lined with palm trees, warm sea, hot sun.

On Chunguu the giant tortoises ignore the camera-clicking holiday-makers. Mostly Italian - Zanzibar is virtually an Italian colony - the tourists have been whisked from their beach hotel to pose with the one-metre-high creatures, admire the delicate white of the frangipani contrasting vividly with the red of the aptly named flamboyant tree, and sip a Serengeri lager. They won't be eating the rather dry fish and rice in the austere little bar, because lunch back at the hotel will be an altogether smarter affair.

Above all, they have come to sunbathe on the scrap of white beach, splash around a little, snorkel a bit and then move on. As their boat putters back to the mainland the tide sweeps in, the beach is covered, the footprints are washed away.

What is it about Zanzibar? What makes it seem so exotic to people who haven't been there, and hardly know where it is? Why does it seem so much more mysterious and beguiling than the Seychelles or Mauritius?

Well, it could be the name: all those sensual zzzzs, the fact that it used to be a centre for the spice trade, making it redolent of merchant adventurers, swaggering traders, Omani pirates.

The reality is more mundane but every bit as enticing. The heart of the capital is Stone Town. There are no souks selling gewgaws to eager tourists, no magnificent buildings - even their Catholic cathedral is a dour affair - and the Portuguese fort, built in 1700, is rundown and shabby.

But there is a warren of scruffy streets, and tail buildings with massive, ornate doors and plaster falling off walls, poky shops, and kiosks selling cigarettes, fizzy drinks, washing-up powder, tins of meat. There is a constant clatter of furniture being made and "genuine" African artefacts being conjured up. There's a fish market, and spectacular smells.

You will get lost in the maze of streets even after a week of walking, and of avoiding the cyclists on their Chinese-issue bikes. And just as you reckon you know where you are, as you set off on an evening stroll, the lights go out. Apparently, a water shortage on the mainland, from where the power is pumped, means that electricity has to be rationed. So for two hours every evening. the sturdy beam of a hurricane lamp is all you have. Unless, of course, you are in one of the smarter hotels that have a generator.

Not that the small hotels are anything but charming. I stayed in the annexe to

the quite-famous Emerson House Hotel. Like many of the other older hotels the rooms have high ceilings, wooden panelling and burnished stairways.

From the vantage point of its rooftop verandah I could gaze over tin roots decorated in various shades of rust red, and across to the port on one side, the Indian Ocean on the other.

The verandah became my headquarters. In the morning, breakfast appeared by magic: my very own concierge (I was the only person staying in the place) raced up the five flights to the balcony to lay out sweet cake, a triangle of puffy bread, jam. pineapple, melon and a little red skinned banana. In the evening I'd sit listening to the chorus of the muezzin, one after the other enticing the faithful to prayer. On one side, dhows nudged slowly along. their progress shaken by the wash from the the hydrofoil from mainland Dar es Salaam; on the other side, the red sun dipped into the sea. Then the warning sound of the generator, the lighting of the storm lamp and the already mysterious streets become suffused with only the ghostly grey light of the

And though the editor of the Lonely Planet suggests that the place be turned into a World Heritage site, presumably so that it can be pointed up and prettied up and made even more attractive to tourists, he misses the point. The appeal of the place is in its very scruffiness. There are a few smart hotels in Stone Town - the Aga Khan has just opened one - and there are beach resort hotels burgeoning along the east coast catering mainly to the package holiday friends from Italy, but the joy of the place is to be found in the cafes where tiger prawns, calamari and king fish are staples. and along the front beside the rather grandly named - and extremely down-atheel - Floating Restaurant. Here a riot of stalls selling elongated carvings of African tribesmen, animals, drums, assegais - all those things you instantly regret buying the

moment you get home - vie with burning braziers of fish and kebabs.

There is a constant gentle barrage of "jambo". "How are you", "What do you want?" There is nothing of the sense of threat which is chronicled in the Lonely Planer, about the danger of mugging.

What you have to remember is that this is the Third World - maybe even poorer than that - and the tourist is subjected to a steady, though invariably polite, barrage

of requests for trade. Everyone is trying to sell you a trip here. a cruise there. Hardly any of them have the wherewithal to take you on any of these outings. They are merely freelance entrepreneurs after a small backhander for effecting the introduction to the travel agent, who may indeed own a jeep or be able to get you on to a boat. The nearest you get to a mugging is over the change. You hand over 1,000 shillings for something that costs 900, and you know that, after a lengthy rummage through pockets, drawers, the till, and a check with friends, there will be a regretful shrug.

No change. So that's another 10p lost. You get a real sense of the place in Jaws Corner, a crossroads in the middle of Stone Town where politicians, real and armchair, sit for hours, chat, talk and pontificate. On the walls are slogans which signal their permanent opposition to many things, but above all union with the mainland: "Open your eyes and look within. Are you satisfied with the life you are living? NO.7

For Nasser (whom I met on a beach on the west coast, bizarrely littered with the hulks of East German warships), most of the ills of the island were down to the depredations of the mainland. He railed at "f***ing politicians" and was desperate for independence (it was then that it dawned on me that Tanzania was an elision of Zanzibar and the former British colony Tanganyika). In fact, so zealous of their "independence" are the people of Zanzihar that you will need to show your passport Continued next page

ZOOMING TO ZANZIBAR

Getting there: Gulf Air flies from Heathrow to Zanzibar via Muscat or Abu Dhabi; in January, Flightbookers (0171-757 3000) is offering a fare of £511 return. Or travel to Dar-Es-Salaam with Alliance Air (0181-944 5012) from Heathrow (£507) or British Airways (0345 222111) from Gatwick.

From Dar, most frequent flights are with Precision Air (about £30 for the 20minute hop). The trip is cheaper by sea, by motorised dhow (very slow). ferry or hydrofoil. A third alternative is to find a cheap charter from Manchester or Gatwick to Mombasa, and connect there with a Kenya Airways flight (around £80 return); this may involve buying a Kenyan visa for

Red tape: British passport holders require visas, which must be obtained in advance from the Tanzanian High Commission, 43 Hertford Street, London W1Y 8DB (0171-499 8951). Send an SAE for the application form, complete and return with £38 and two photographs.

10 miles Tumbatu : Stone Town Paje **⊙** Channel Pungumel TANZANIA ZANZIBAR

Dar es Salaam 🔳 200 miles

INDIAN

OCEAN

CUP RUGBY

London Welsh back in big time/19

MOTORING CITY BREAKS Seville/2

Nissan's road-going rocket/II

CUR FOOTBALL

Chelsea's last line of defence/22

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

SPORT

When you see the ABTA symbol on your tour operator's brochure you can be confident that the descriptions of your travel arrangements comply with our strict guidelines regarding their clarity and accuracy. The same care and attention goes into checking every ABTA travel agent and tour operator's finances. For a leaflet containing the full story on what ABTA offers you, call 0171 307 1991.

~? ●

Zanzibar: the life of spice

From previous page and yellow fever certificate at the airport. You are even charged \$4 to leave the island.

Fred, on the other hand, genial coowner of Tropical Tours and Safaris, with his strikingly beautiful sister Freda, simply shrugged off the talk of independence.

"We voted against it. What difference can it make, anyway? Do we want our own army?"

Fred is typical of the entrepreneurs who realise that somewhere between the bland gorgeousness of a beach resort hotel and the faintly irritating chorus of "jambo, jambo", there is an ever-growing trade in tourism.

After the revolution of 1964, which saw the end of British rule, everyone was entitled to three acres of land. Fred has his bid in for his allocation; he plans to develop it into a house and then apply for a plot in the forest. Meanwhile he is organising spice tours

- a quick whiz around the farms which produce the cloves on which so much of the economy is based - taking people to the south coast to swim with the dolphins (they move so fast to get out of the way, that if you blink you miss them, but the lunch is good), and generally seizing on any opportunity he can see to make a quick Tanzanian

Which is how I came to be in Paradise Beach Bungalows in Paje, a straggly little collection of thatched houses on the east coast. I could have taken a bus, a dala-dala, a vehicle with wooden fretwork sides. It would have cost next to nothing and taken three hours. Fred took half that time. And cost a lot, lot more.

The beach here virtually runs the length of the island. It is a beach out of your fantasies. Palm trees nod gently as the tide tears in and out, the women are up at dawn with the low tide as it breaks a quarter of a mile out, to plant seaweed. The mix of noise is enchanting: the roar of the waves, the clatter of the paims in the wind, the voices of the women chatting and giggling, their skirts hoicked above their knees. Fishermen walk along the beach with their catch in a carrier bags, pausing to beat an octopus into tasty submission. The inevitable cyclist uses the beach as the main road - it is certainly much flatter and smoother than the bumpy, sandy lane inland.

The bungalows are simple. The lighting comes from the now familiar tender octopus, big. tasty prawns. All washed down with a bottle of Sprite. Nothing happens. Yours for \$16 a

It's Fred who fixes me up on a dhow cruise, a long, slow tack across to the islands off the town in a fabulously dilapidated boat, filled with irrelevant spars of wood, blessed with a spindly mast, a tattered sail and a steady leak. There's a crew of six who alternate between frantic activity to change the sail and catch the breeze and distinct torpor as we wander across the ocean: I'd still be there now if the skipper hadn't decided, as the moon came out over Zanzibar, to use the outboard motor and get us back to port. Just in time for the lights to go out.

48 hours in the life of Seville

You need a break - and a short cut to the soul of a city. Each week, 'The Independent' offers a prescription for the perfect short break. This weekend, Seville, with Simon Calder.

Why go now?

Because Seville's seductively ruffled layers of history and culture are revealed most vividly when the winter "chill" (average temperature 14°C) freezes out most tourists. Because you need to size up the city in relative serenity before returning for six days of madness during the spring Feria. And because if there is a more handsome city in Europe, I have yet to find it.

Beam down

The only airline with direct scheduled flights from the UK to Seville is Iberia (0171-830 0011), with a daily non-stop from Heathrow for a lowest fare of £182.90 (including all taxes). The same airline flies from Manchester, with a quick connection in Barcelona.

It may well be cheaper to find a cheap flight to Madrid, eg from Luton on Debonair (0500 146200) or from various UK airports via Amsterdam on KLM (through Air Tickets Direct, 0990 320321) for around £150. In Madrid, you connect with the AVE high-speed train to Seville, taking two hours from the Spanish capital to Santa Justa station.

Get your bearings

From the airport, a taxi covering the six miles to the centre will cost around 1.000 ptas (about £8). The airport bus operates from 6am to 10pm, mostly every halfhour, though with a long gap for a siesta between 2pm and 5pm. The ride costs 750 ptas (£3). Stay on to the end, right outside the Alfonso XIII hotel.

Rail travellers have it easy: from Santa Justa station, you can walk west to the city proper in about 10 minutes.

The city proper is defined as the ragged diamond enclosed to the west by the Guadalquivir river, and to the east by a meandering ring road. Inside this square-ish mile is the greatest concentration of elegance anywhere in Spain. Across the river, to the north west, stands the debris from Expo 92; to the south west, the down-at-heel quarter of Triana.

The tourist office on Avenida de la Constitucion is the prettiest in Spain. It also rates among the most useless, in terms of providing such basic information as a map of the city and the opening hours the connects it with the real Seville. of that rather large building up the road, the Cathedral. But if you want to try your luck, the office opens daily, 9am-7pm, except Sundays (10am-4pm).

Watch out for ...

The habit of most maps to have the north point at the left, rather than the too.

in the world, from Bogotá to Brazzaville.

To impress someone - even if only yourself - there is only one place in town: the extraordinarily civilised Casas de la Juderia (literally: houses of the Jewish quarter), buried in the Callejon de Dos Hermanos in the Santa Cruz district, 500 metres more or less due east of the Cathedral. Rooms are scattered around a large, airy courtyard in a part of town where even the screeching mopeds fall silent. A single costs £30, a double £50, with optional breakfast an additional £4.50 per person. Book in advance on 00 345 441 5150, and be prepared to get cross as you try to track it down.

Among the many options several degrees cheaper and less cheerful is the two-



Seville: handsome on high (above), streets sizzling with life (below)

star Hostal Alameda, on the Alameda de Hercules just north of the city centre.

I stayed at the extraordinary new Alcora, which cost £50 for a single for a night. This buys a spacious, split-level room with plenty of room to write these words - though rather too good a view of the biggest hypermarket in Christendom. What you gain in space, you lose in accessibility; an hourly minibus shut-

Take a ride

. Circular bus C2 runs anticlockwise right around this extraordinary city. Like all the public buses in Seville, it costs 120 ptas, or about half as much if you buy a wad of 10 tickets from a street-side machine. street life sizzles even in midwinter. It will take you through and around the as ruthlessly efficient as those anywhere sembles a forgotten circus from the 21st century - full of futuristically obsolete cable cars and space rockets going nowhere.

Take a hike

The cathedral, being the third largest in the world - after St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's in London, is a morning's exercise in its own right. While you're waiting for it to open at 11am, lose yourself in the surrounding streets; chords of Cartagena and Havana keep resounding. When you want to return to the cathedral, it takes no time at all to locate its vast

Inside the south door, an elaborate tomb contains the remains of the Genoan who changed the world: Christopher Columbus, who used Seville as a base camp for his voyages to the New World.

Atlantic chart, noon today

The bones of poor old Columbus did

almost as much travelling in death as in life, shuttling between the New and Old Worlds before finally and fittingly com-

Lunch on the run The best fast snack in town - chocolate y churros (spirals of deep-fried batter. ready for dunking in absurdly thick and sweet molten chocolate) - can be found

ing to rest in Seville, which fancies itself

as the original Latin American city.

doesn't open at weekends. On Saturdays, therefore, content yourself with grazing in the Barrio de San-

at El Duque, directly opposite Marks &

Granada owes much of its magnificence to its mountainous location; Seville just subsides beside a slouchy old river. But it is stashed full of miraculously atmospheric patios, palaces and plazas. A lifetime would be a more realistic time-frame than an afternoon, but if you have to choose one sight then make it the Alcazar - the huge palace adjacent to the Cathedral. Seville specialises in scale,

Window shopping Spencer on Plaza de la Victoria. But it

It would be hemous to waste time onshopping, but if you want to see what's cool then walk along Calle Sierpes, ta Cruz, east of the Cathedral, where keeping an eye open for some of the elegant, tiled murals.

An aperitif

Alfonso XIII may have suffered ill-luck commensurate with his suffix (a bomb at his wedding in 1906 killed 24 people; governments changed on average every 10 months during his reign), but sipping an iced sherry at the implausibly decorative hotel that bears his name is fortune indeed.

Next stop on the pre-dinner crawl could be El Rinconillo, bodged into an uncomfortable corner of Calle Gerona - all tiles, ancient wooden chests and ranks of dangling hams. But you pay for the ambience: \$4 for a beer and a nibble.

On the Alameda de Hercules, Las Columnas does the same thing for half the price, self-service, and provides the chance to sit outside. Choose your dinner venue from one of the many options on this cheery street - but don't start until 10pm.

17.30

Over the 1882 II wood

6,000 Independent

independent on Sum

Special street a land

in the British Islan

Sunday morning: go to church The Santa Maria monastery on Cartuja island was Columbus's spiritual home. It comprises a mystical series of interlocking courtyards and overlapping epochs: an original 12th-century church, of which dazzling fragments remain; a ceramics factory, during which it acquired the five-pack of cooling towers; and a repository for con-

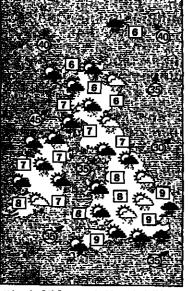
servationists, a role only recently acquired.

A walk in the park

One of Alfonso's few successes was the great Iberoamericana exposition of 1929, staged in the fabulous Maria Luisa park. It is dotted with absurdly caricatured pavilions, but the main glory is the Plaza de España - a monumental hemisphere, decorated to the last exquisite touch by the provinces of Spain.

WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



General summary and outlook: It will be a blustery, showery day with strong winds everywhere and gales in many parts. In fact, parts of Northern Ireland and western Scotland will turn stormy for a while. Heavy overnight rain will clear south-east England then all parts will have bright spells and occasional showers. They will be most frequent and heaviest in the north and west, with thunder and hail possible. In the east there will be more sunshine between the showers but even there some of the showers will be heavy. More rain will move quickly north-eastwards across Scotland on Sunday. The wind will ease for a while but strengthen again as the rain passes through, with gales in exposed western areas. Monday will see a mixture of sunny spells and showers, with the showers turning Increasingly wintry, and snow will

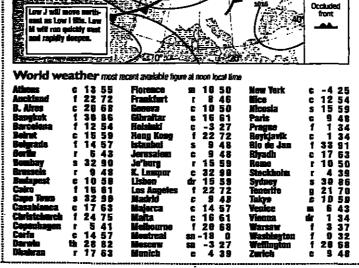
accumulate over the higher ground. On Tuesday

more rain will spread in from the south, preceded by

snow over the mountains. Blustery showers will fol-

<u> </u>	. 4	Ŋ.	4.4 4		323	2		ow, with strong winds	anair	1		
must recent evaligible	e Figu a	aln	oon kac	al time c,cloudy, t,t	atr, tg	,tog; h	z,hazy;	m,mist; rusin; sn,snow, s,sunn	y, ih, ih,	 Inder		
Aberdeeu Anglesey Ayr Bolfast Birmingham Hackpeol Baurnement Brighton	t t t	6976787	48 45 45 45 45 45 45	Cardifi Carlisio Cock Bever Dublin Ediaburgh Exetor Glasgow	c c sh c s	9 7 78 7 8 10	48 46 45 58 45 46 50	Inverness c 7 Ipswich r 9 Isles of Schligt 11 Jersey st 9 Liverpool c 8	45 48 52 48 46 48	Oxford r Plymouth c Scarborough c Shrowsbury f Southamptour Southend r St Andrews c	105 7 7 9	41 45 45 48 48
lvletal	_		40	C					74	Storneway c	•	45

lyr e leifast f irmingham f ilackpeel f eurnémentkr irighten c iristel r	8 7 8 7	45 45 46 45 45 48	Gerk Bever Dublia Ediaburi Exeter Glasgaw Geeruse	c s jà s f	18 7 8 10 7	45 58 45 46 50 45	Jerse; Liverp Londo: Manch Nowca	of Scilly y size ool c A r lester c	1 11 9 8 8 6 7	32 48 46 48 43 43	Scarborer Shrewsha Southamp Southend St Andrey	ighe ty f toar r rs c	577977	41 45 45 48
ighting-up t	im	es		*******					-		Air qualit	y	******	
oday:				Тогастт	TW						Yesterday's n	-		
elfași16.1	1	p	8.45	Bellast		16 1	2 to	8.45			144201307 4 11	Mil.	•	
inningham16.0	6	b	8.17	Blaning				8.17			London	Good		
risioi16.14	4	lo.	8.15	Bristol .				8.15	- 3		S England	Good		
lasgow15.56	6 :	b	8.46	Glasgov				8.46			Wales	Good		
andon15.04			8.06	London							C England	Good		
anchester16.02			8.24	Manche				8.06			N England	6ood		
owcastle15_51								8.24			Scotland	Good		
		w	a.Jv	Newcas		,15.5	2 to	8.30			N ireland	Good		



SOz Good Good Good Good Good Good

Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

Out and about with AA Road-watch an 0336 401 for the latest total and national italiac news Source. The Automo-tile Association Calls charged at 30p per min (cheap rate) 49p per min tall other times) ind VAT Sun and moon 4:39 7.2 17:10 7.2 1:59 9.1 14:21 9.4 10:16 13.I 22:38 12.7 Hull (Albert Do 9:19 8.5 21:30 8.7 3:28 3.4 15:41 3.7

2:26 3.9 14:39 4.2

London, A1 between Watford Way, Mill Hill Circus and Fiveways Comer. Car-nageway reduced to two lanes for long term roadworks. Until 31st May 1998.

AA Roadwatch

Contraffew Lintal April 15

works and contrallow.

London, A3211 Blackfriars Underpass.

Bucks, M40 J1a-3. Long-term road-

Kent, M2.15-17 Bridge maintenance and restrictions. Until March 9th.

Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraffow in oper-

ation across the Avoranouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays. Until 1st January 1999

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lotthouse (M62). A contraftow and a

50mph speed limit are in place. Until 13th July 1998

Somerset, M5 J22-23 Highbridge to Bridgewater. Major roadworks due to bridge repairs. A 3 mile contraflow is in place. Until 31st March 1998.

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lotthouse (M62). Contraflow and speed

limit are in place. (Until Jan 21 1998).

Greater Manchester, AS6, Old Trafford. Roadworks, Until 19th January 1998.

Postol, 145 J18-19. Contraflow in oper-ation across the Avoranouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays. Until 1st January 1999.



The radiant of the Quadrantid meteor shower, which peaks tonight, lies in Bootes, near to Hercules, Draco and the fail of the Great Bear. This chart is for 1.00 am.

Less than a month after the Geminids, another of the three best meteor showers of the year is underway, due to peak tonight: Astronomers have a perverse way of clinging on to outdated terminology, and this shower retains its old name - the Quadrantids derived from the former constellation Quadrans Muralis (the "Mural Quadrant" - an obsolete instrument for measuring the positions of stars and planets), which was introduced into star charts in 1795 and abolished when the International Astronomical Union adopted the present 88 constellations in 1930. The radiant of this shower actually lies in Boötes. Though the Quadrantid radiant is circumpolar (ie never sets) for UK observers, it only gains respectable height above the horizon in the early hours of the morning at present. Nevertheless, with such a prolific shower, there is a chance of seeing meteors emanating roughly from a northerly direction at any time tonight and over the next two or three days. Jacqueline Mitton

مكنا من الاحل

Stairways to heaven

A new television series investigates the inspirational nature of rock climbing on obscure and difficult mountains around the world. But, writes Charles Arthur, commercial sure from trekkers and even efficience carried picknickers are wrecking the romance of these wildernesses.

andstone spires of the Wadi Rum, in the Jordanian deset; have long fascinated the Bedouin tribes who ethere. In past centuries, they climbed them in bare thying to catch the ibex mountain goats which loped shootedly about the craggy rocks soaring up to 600ft above the ochre sands.

Nowadays, the Bedouins' reason for loping up the My rock is a more commercial one: working as guides or the growing number of foreign rock climbers who now visit the area, in search of adventure. It's a cut above the standard package holiday spent by the poolde or gazing at inhospitable territory from behind he windows of an air-conditioned bus.

Rock climbing is a comparatively new activity in Jordan the first European climbers there came in 1952. hin Ward, a keen climber from the village of Greendaear Oldham, was first inspired to look more closely at the possibilities of the rock formations by their as the backdrop to David Lean's film Lawrence of in the manner of the true obsessive, Ward scored Lawrence's book The Seven Pillars of Wisdom for any mention of rock suitable for climbing. He then pegin asking the Jordanian government for permissionan travel there and climb. In 1984 his persistence paid off, when he was invited to visit. Since then he's beera regular.

and for anyone who thought that such "adventure toursin" as rock climbing would only be the preserve of the young, fit and strong, The Face, a six-part TV series which started last night on BBC2, shows Ward and his partner Di Taylor - "both the wrong side of 50", as the producer Richard Else puts it - attempting a dangerous climb on the uncertain rock of the Wadi Rum. They survive, despite a moment 800ft up when Ward, leading, finds himself stuck on a blank face with no obvious way up or down. The relief and mner satisfaction they felt on reaching the top, just as the evening sunset turned the desert floor into a blue carpet, isn't the sort of thing you can capture on

His aim in making the series was partly to show how climbing is not just the preserve of suicidal supermenschen who are born without a fearful bone in their body. That's not to say, though, that they haven't lived a little. Besides Ward and Taylor, the series' participants include Andy Parkin, who ruptured his spleen and dislodged his heart in a near-fatal climbing accident in the 1980s, and Joe Simpson, whose book Touching The Void is a vivid, terrifying account of how he crawled off a South American mountain alone, after being lost and left for dead with a smashed ankle.

Non-climbers who have seen The Face say it opens their eyes - "though I don't think it sends them down to their local climbing shop. But at the end they re- £18.99 from BBC Books.

alise it's not about being mad, or getting to the summit, or getting killed. They realise it's inspirational. They feel it's a real adventure."

But Else also wanted to show off the idea of climbing's world spread. These days it truly is a recreation you can pursue anywhere there's vertical rock: have rope, will travel. The locations for the climbs range from Canada's frozen northwest to Vietnam, to Scotland, South Africa and, of course, Jordan.

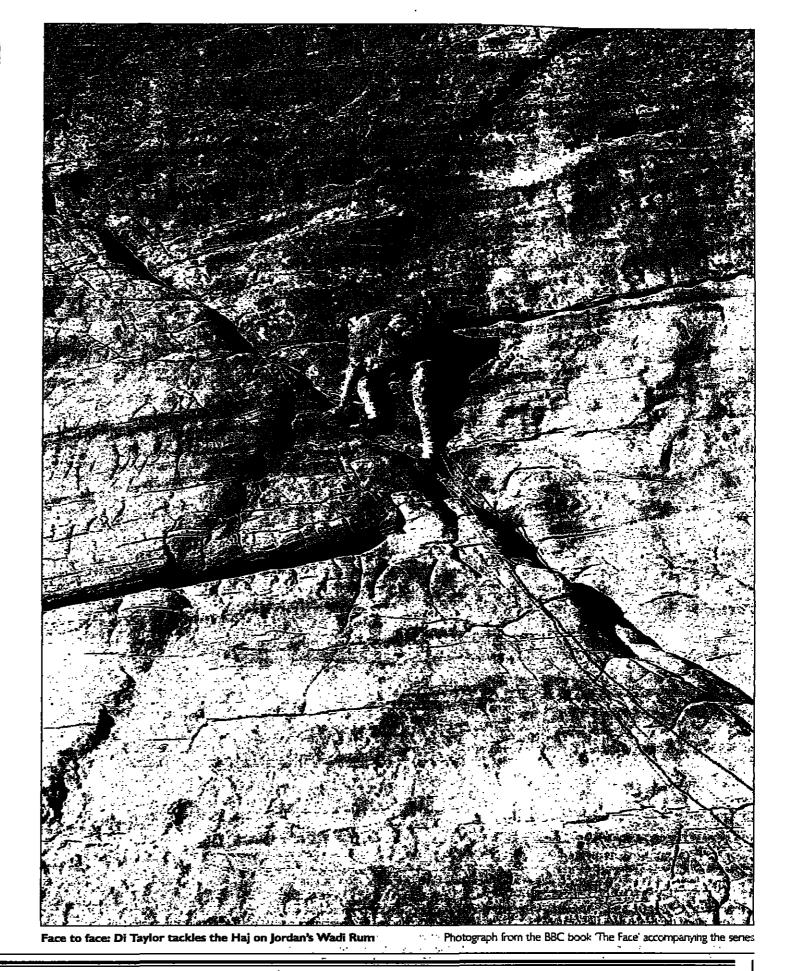
You might notice a certain mountain area missing from the list of locations. "We purposely didn't go to the Himalayas," says Else. "Enormous damage is being done there. The budget could have covered it, and actually it was more expensive to go to Canada. But it was a deliberate choice." The "damage" Else and many others are seeing in the Himalayas is wrought not only by climbers, but also by commercial trekking expeditions that treat the mountains and surrounding environment essentially as a disposable resource which can be abused at will. Rubbish and human detritus is piling up. Nor is that limited to the Himalayas. On reaching the top of one remote summit in Jordan, Ward and Taylor found graffiti carved and painted onto the rocks, and litter thrown down cracks in the rock. The rubbish had come from visiting picknickers, not climbers, who had arrived by helicopter. "Is nowhere sacred?" asked Ward, rhetorically,

These days, the answer tends to be no, not if there's money to be made taking people there. It is increasingly difficult to find real wilderness, though climbers tend to discover it more easily. "The higher you get, the less you see," says Else. "But in Jordan, for example, there's an awful Jordanian flag painted on the summit of the Wadi Rum. Then there are the names and graffiti carved into the rock - English names, Scottish names." Other disfigurements include arrows painted onto the rocks by guides from nearby cities, rather than the local Bedouin, to show tourists the way up the traditional climbs.

Ward and Else are wounded by such indifference to the environment - so much so that they have petitioned the King of Jordan to make the area of the Wadi Rum into a national park whose wildlife, vegetation and local people would be protected. "People come up from big cities like Aqaba and Amman and drive all over the desert, destroying the ecologically fragile surface and vegetation," Ward says. "Quite recently trees have been chopped down to make barbecues and

The desert ecology can't survive such an assault. Else comments: "It's important that the Bedouin should have their own economy, but it should be handled in a way that leaves the environment undamaged." The Bedouin at least trust Ward to put their case: they have nominated him as their spokesman. But does he think the park will be created? "Some people in the country have suddenly realised that Wadi Rum is a big money-earner, so it's difficult to say. At the moment, it's in the lap of the gods."

"The Face" is on BBC2 on Friday evenings at 7.30pm. "The Face: Six Great Climbing Adventures", a book to accompany the series, goes on sale from Thursday, priced



TEL: 0171 293 2222

ay have superiolist

with his safe to or the

96 kalled 24p. opis je

ged on average may?

ไม่พระก่<u>ย</u>ต แกะกะกุกตรูป

se implica di dicorren.

no mante di la la Indica

profile productions

monille. h case alo a

corner of California

kint mooden ii wat

ag bams. But y vegy fo A feer a beer and a milit greda de Hetalia le

the same there is 12.2.

Brown was asserted 肥 加出物 经货币 医水花 <u>en den ister antika</u>

ing: go to church na moreovery is the

ambus significant NZ MICH and that arms, and

HUMBER CHARLES

als remient a comme

ath it seems to the first

es and a service of the service

rule with

IN ICH MIC. STREET

ergana cupi.

abulous Mara ----

ith about

11A JOR

Ranam 2

he mais ci 💎 🥶

he last a succession.

TRAVEL: BROCHURES '98

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Look for the Allo logo when booking your holiday - a promise of Quality, Choice and Security. For a FREE copy of the Directory of Real Holidays, listing all ATO Member Companies, please call 0181 - 607 9080. THE TRAVEL CLUB FOUNDED

The Specialists in

Archaelogical and

Ancient History

CASAS CANTABRICAS Holidays in North and West Spain and North Portugal

Stay in traditional cottages or small hotels and discover some of the most beautiful. unspoilt regions of Iberia.

ACACIA 10

EXPEDITIONS

Since 1989 Acacia Expeditions have built an envisible reputation for

operating low cost, high value camping safaris throughout Africa. Acacia have now also introduced a

range of short direction range of short direction holidays which allow you to create your own individual timerary. From a seven day Kilimanjaro trek to a four

reek Gorilla Safari - there :

TEL: 0171 706 4700

ething for everyone.

For our brochure phone 01223 328721 or fax 01223 322711

Discover a delightfully differen mainsteam, with our unique range of rural cottages, vilias with pools and friendly hotels. programme, special interest holidays, guiet cruising and

0181 995 9323

Mountain Travel Worldwide Jeeks Peaks Bikes Ski Touring The war 1998 brachure

0114 275 7500 @ ATO Sun Esprit now in Chamonix and Morzine ★ Summer holidays designed for families ★ 50% reduction for all r Nurseries with qualified nannies

Over the last 12 months, 439,000 Independent and Independent on Sunday readers have taken a holiday in the British Isles.

Greek Islands Club 29 years of arranging individual villa holidays for those who expect privacy, comfort. ersonal service and eautiful surroundings. Our brochure features the more unburried and uncrowded retreats in the Ionian and Sporades



lovellest regions of rural France

THE HIGHEST QUALITY WALKING TRIPS IN **EUROPE** 01865 315664

ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL GROUP 69-71 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE

FRENCH COTTAGES

Chaose from hundreds

period beamed tarmhouses

immaculate country houses.

SUNVIL'S SPECIALIST GREECE

01708 225000 Fax: 01708 229678

OF UPMINSTER ESSEX

The better parts of Greece!

Quieter areas (mainland and islands) off the tourist-beaten

Hotels from deluxe to family-

Plus walking, sailing, boat hire, watersports, island hopping, flexible fly-drives.

Tel: 0181 847 4748 (24 hr)

ABTA V6218 ATOL 505 IATA AFTO

Traveluz

IONIAN ISLAND and

Sunvil Int. Sales Ltd (9)

Day flights from Gatwick & Heathrow

Specialists since 1974.

and apartments close to the sea

Holidays, Tours and Breaks **Andante Travels** The Old Telephone Exclusion Winterbourne Danni

or information Tel: 01980 610555

The Very Best Of Uncommercial Turkey

SPAIN, PORTUGAL MADEIRA AND CANARY ISLANDS radores, Country houses and tels in 'undiscovered' Spain, Mallorca and Canaries. Citybreals, Flydrive, Coach tours and flexible tailor-made options, Plus Portugal and Madeira's Pousadas and Hotels NEW: PASCINATING RURAL CAVE HOTELS For a free brochure call: 0171 828 6021 or 0161 848 8680 MUNDI COLOR TA V2255 ATOL 799 AITO

* Activity clubs for a to 12 year olds ★ Babysitting ★ Family suppers 01252 616789 ABTA V3614 AITO ATOL 3096

Tel: 01932 220477

(01242) 240 310 EILAT ON THE RED SEA eilot: xeursions to Jerusalem, the Dead

picked selection of character cottages in all the

Plus "Desert Trailblazer" adventur Negev, sculps diving and winds SUPERSTAR HOLIDAYS - 0645 125847 BROCHURE HOTLINE 01233 211203 (9)

CORSICA Experience the superb beaches, historic towns and glorious scenery of the 'fragrant isle with award-winning VFB Holidays Choose from hand-picked apartments and character liotels located in all the

(01242) 240 310

Mamiano cirrece.
Offering highest quality
schusive accommodation (exclusive accommonsus one special interest bolidays. From luxury villas with pool b waterfront spartments -llydrives, painting, TWO TRAVEL INDUSTRY AWARDS IN 1997.

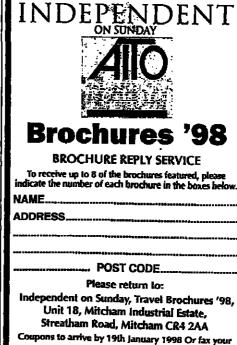
ABTA V8177 619**2**6 ATOL 3719



EXPLORE WORLDWIDE

Adventure tours, seatreks, iver journeys and cultural tours in more than 90 countries. 6 days to 6 weeks, in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Americas, Australasta. Explore Worldwide (SI) Aldershot GU11 2LQ Full bonded ATTG/ATOL 2595 ☎01252 344161

Tapestry Holidays take 🌉 great pride in providing a specialist, knowledgeable and personalised service. We offer a wide variety of coastal and special interest holidays to the 'Real Turkey'! Please feel welcome to call for a copy of the current brochure and any brochure and any relevant special offers. Tel: 0181 742 0055 ABTA V4829, AITO ATOL 3434



COMPANIES ARE FULLY

page # Da er ca ting-W. Caral

DOM:

The range

BEST FLIGHT DEALS

Hong Kong

BEST HOLIDAYS

uperior and deluxe hotels

renowned for securing the

London > Vietnam >Malaysia >

renowned for securing the best deals with hotel chains

At Travelbag we are

such as Hvatt, Hilton.

Marriott, Shangri-La.

in Economy, Business or First Class

The beauty of the Far East MALAYSIA the affordability of

Other options include: Adventures, river trips, overland journeys, exotic beach locations.

MULTI-DESTINATIONS

Our speciality is multi-destination trips, blending cities, tours and beaches. Including flights, accommodation & day tours.

rymaniansic 🗸 🕏 Thon 🔭 Cathay Pacific Killin

🔯 01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558

OPERA 7 DANS
No.-1-1 High Street, Alton, Hants, GUS4 18M
No.-1-1 Hants 7 Per
Sat San began
Sur Sinns to Spen
Sur Sinns t

prepaid airport taxes E656 E399 E447 e.g. NEW YORK

Taxes

£384 £476 TOTAL

0181 547 3322

phy C26 par

265 CX 108

£454 × 010

£324 Male

£588..

£513

£348

£366

OVERSEAS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Overseas Travel



£279 £279 £279 £379 £213 £405

£329 0870 75 00 140 WE GO FURTHER TO FIND THE RIGHT FLIGHT

New Zealand Top scheduled airlines. Best stopover choice -Far East, USA & more. Itineraries tailored to your exact wishes.

 Car & campervan hire, air, rail & coach passes.

 Accommodation from budget to luxury.

£647°

AUSTRALIA

△ 01420-88724 or 0171-497 0515

OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AGENT

PEN 7 DAYS 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN

373-375 The Strand, London WC2R OJF Sum 10am to 5pm (London to 4pm) FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-497 2923 All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply, ask for details.

* STA TRAVEL * WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Ansterdam £58 new

Dublin £58 Boston £150

Paris Borestar £59 Los Angeles £216

C413 Mjami £228 Koala Lumpur 5379 Singapore £398 Rio de Janeiro £459 Delhi £325 Cape Town £368

Landon-Bengkak-Singapara-Jakarta-Sydney-Auckland-Los Angeles-London incl. 51x month Australia and six month New Zealand bus pass from £899.

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262. 0161 834 0668 (Manchester) EUROSTAR: 0171 361 6143 ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160 117 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Brosspisse Rd SW7, 11 Goodge St Wi, Landon. For a free copy of THE GUIDE call. 8171 361 6166. http://www.statravel.co.uk

LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOIN, LEEKS, REPHYCASTLE, CHPOND, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON $_$ STA TRAVEL

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE FROM £46.

Overseas Travel

Established 1946

REAL HOLIDAYS

"We think of all the wasted holidays before we found Ramblers" wrote a client

returning after five holidays with us. From Britain's Lake District throughout Europe to

South Africa, N & S America, Nepal and the Far East, Iceland, Alaska and

Australasia, our small escorted parties walk, sightsee, explore and even trek or

cross-country ski, but most of all to the hills and mountains, the beautiful and

interesting places. 149 different holidays, 2000 departures. All holidays carry a grade

to reflect their ease or challenge. You can leave the planning to us, you needn't look

at a map, just get up and follow the leader! Minimum age 16. Come and join us,

we'll make you welcome. Call us for a brochure.

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS, BOX 43, WELWYN GARDEN, AL8 6PQ

Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276

E-mail: ramhols@dial_plpex.com

TRAVEL INSURANCE

LUNN POLY

Free insurance with any summer '98 overseas

holiday costing £299* or more per person.

For details ask at any Lunn Poly Holiday Shop

or call us on 22 0990 81 II IL

Applies to summer '98 overseas holidays with a duration of up to 17 days only. "£399 or more per person on long haul holidays. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or discount applies to new bookings only and is subject to availability. "Lines open Mon-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9-5. All calls charged at standard national call rate. Full details available in shops.

IN YOUR 20'S TO MID 30'S?

NEED SOME HOLIDAY INSPIRATION?

On Cass word chologys the name of the game is waxing, explaning and signiseeing, we a send you to some reasy in excess in Europe and around the world, with people, who just like you, are looking for a change from the mandane. So don't be last by the larger looks, discover the rest of Europe this year. In small groups, made up of people on your wave langth, you'll enjoy the local, leaving the trustsy divise for the rest. Led by one of our experienced leaders you'll discover the rest country, its landscapes, quiet coastines and sights of genuine interest. For both the garde ambler or hard core szambler you need our experience to really enjoy where you're going this year. How shout trebding in Nepal, or discovering the delights of Morocco or Peru? And if you think your budget won't stretch wait till you see our prises. We don't bother with the pretentious, just get you want to go, with no heaste and then led the country speak for the firms you wince the otherwish been drone and all you need to do not not be force your tellum translates and

Tel: 01707 373988 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: ramhols@dial.pipex.com

itself. By the time you arrive, the planning's been done and all you need to do is get to know your fellow tra enjoy yourself?? So if you'd like to know more, call for the new Casts World brochure:

A better way to getaway

Travel Services

←TCLUB

GA General Accident Direct

0800 121 007 CFO STATE BOOK MICE.

LUMBY DIS LOW COST AIREARES WORLDWIDE

erdaa 69 linesels ... 69 Berlin £99 Dublin £59 _ *0*8 Paris 59 597 Singapore . 597 SKI CHARTERS FROM: Calgary £199 Dearer £199

Gambia £129 | Mismi £99

Planket [199 Sydney 4559 or all your LOW COST SCHEDULE CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF HUNDREDS MORE BARGAIN 0990 143301

Freephone Student Travel 0500 49 77 88

10% off low cost travel IATA Accredited Acting as ag far ATOL holders

LIGHTSEATS Alcante Fr C59 Delamen ...
Matage ... E59 Matta Fr Fero ... C59 Geneva ...
Mehorithze. ... E59 Geneva ...
Mehorithze. ... E59 Tel Avv ...
Tenerte ... T79 Tel Avv ...
Funchal ... E59 Canada ...
Funchal ... E59 Canada ...

0990 239904

Turkey

Zurkey

encage me manspream was our unique range of rural cottages, villas with private pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible

Wandering' programme, special interest kolidays, gulet craising and istumbul city breaks. 0181 995 9323 APTA VISST ATOL 1922 ATTO

Canada FARES FROM E164

△ 01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559 7

Overseas Travel

SINGLE?

estination

Example 1

CANADA
FARES FROM

Group centrally 3

Circus

RETURN

CANADA

FARES FROM

CIrcus

0181 951 2811

Solos

of a small group Wildlife Safaris • Trekking Expeditions • Sailing Adventures • Jungle Exploration Cultural Touring • Wilderness Experience For our 100 page colour brochure call 01252 344161 Please quote Reference IN zplane Worldwide Vidersbor, GUII ILQ. EXPLORE www.explane.co.uk WOTLdWide

Discover the unique experience

Experience the

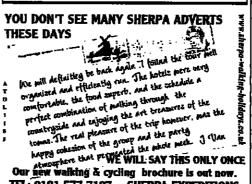
Unexpected

Part of Rambiers Holidays (estab. 1945)

Summer Holiday? Where? With Whom? **Singles Abroad**

Great holidays exclusively for single people

Call 0181 809 0090 FOR BROCHURE & RESERVATIONS



TEL: 0181 577 7187 SHERPA EXPEDITIONS

Overseas Travel

PORTO SANTO
MOROCO
GIERALTAR
TUNISIA
TO NO Winter 97,98 & Sun
A speci selection of 3, 4 & 5 + bank
TUNISIA
TO NO MARY
TO COLOR MARY
TO COLOR SANTO
TO COLOR TUNISIA GOZO MALTA COMINO BERMUDA MARBELLA CYPRIS
MAJORCA
MAJORCA
GARRE OPORTO

COLL NOW
CALL NOW
CA

Holiday Parks Holland Germany **Bruges**

THE CALL

City Breaks and and the Black Fores and Mosel regions of y, All with a range of ndoor pools. Or discover eausiful Bruges in Belgium city centre apartments

one 01502 502 605 HOSEÁSONS

Take Off

specials

: 01707 373988 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: rainhois@ckat.paper.com
OASIS WORLD, BOX 43, WELWYN GARDEN, ALB 6PQ GLOBAL HOLDES DIET 101244 882400 TRAVEL INSURANCE RETAIL AGENTS FOR APOL HOLDERS ETLINE FLEXIBLE COYER TO .01243 817781

0171 360 TTT

DIRECT Diving Holidays

Sunday 11th January The Independent on Sunday will be featuring Λ Complete guide 🚺 to the best diving locations around the world within the Travel section.

To reserve your advertisement call the Travel Team on: O171 293 2222

UNAJASZ WEN TURN YOUR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN FROM £499 RETURN

Lazy beach barbecues and 4 wheel drives into the bush. Watching whales off the Kaikoura coast. Cruising around the crystal clear waters of mighty Milford Sound. Finding adventure in the Lost World. You'll experience it all with Austravel's Great Escape. For great deals and advice pop into the Knightsbridge shop or call-0171 584 0202



WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR SERVICE



MORE REASONS TO BOOK WITH US

✓ Hotels ✓ Car Hire ✓ Tvl Insurance ✓ City Breaks

✓ Tours

USA & CANADA
BOSTON naturn from £217
CHICAGO £254
CHICAGO £254
COPY OF ANY
OF OUR
BROCHURES
CALL US
NOW
ON

0181 546 4545 | 0181 546 6000

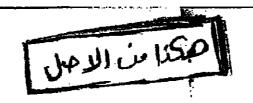
DOLLAR Alamo & Mamoit

FLIGHTBOOKERS









: 0171 293 2505

out Europe to Ska and ven trek or autiful and carry a grade needn i look and join us. AL8 6PQ

3ruges City Breaks

> 1502 502 605 ote Ausa SEASONS

GLOBAL

71 584 0202







SIMON CALDER

Tony, Cherie, the three kids and the mother-in-law spent £16,000 flying Pearl Class to the Seychelles. But New Brits buy - their winter sun much more wisely than the Blair family.

Pearl Class? Pah. While the Prime Minister insists on travelling on holiday in the rarefied élitism of Air Seychelles' business cabin, his people are perfectly content with Britain's charter airlines. I shall avoid any allusion to pearls preceding swine, too, since standards on package holiday flights are excellent - everyone gets a good deal. The only differential among us New Brits returning from New Year in The Gambia was how painfully slowly our luggage would appear.

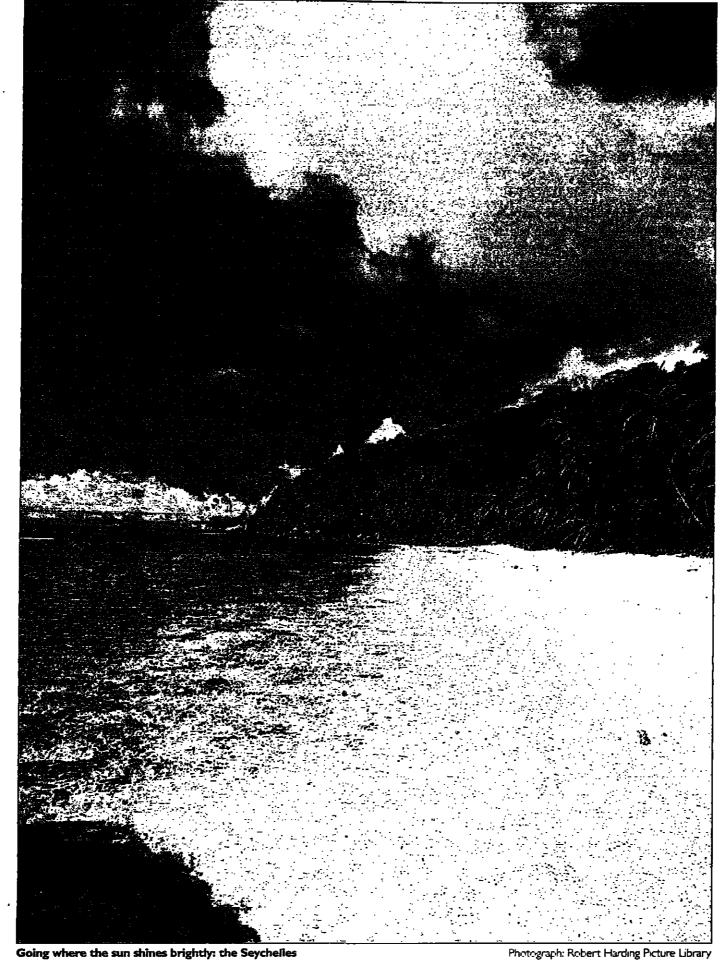
My suitcase finally crawled along the conveyor at Gatwick in the early hours of yesterday morning. But none of us really minded the usual old baggage of a delayed charter flight and surreal announcements about "operational difficulties", because we knew we were enjoying the extraordinary bargain that is the British winter sun holiday.

- Look at the picture of the Seychelles on the right. The Gambia in January is like that, only without the cloudy bits. "Midwinter" in West Africa's smallest state wafts over you so sensuously that you feel barely tickled by a deliciously warm, dry 25C (compare that with the sweaty Seychelles, now in the middle of the rainy season).

Perhaps because of its greater appeal, the Gambian beach is considerably more crowded, with bathers greeted by a genial jostle of bantering locals - for whom we represent a significant marketing opportunity. After a day or two they get to know you and your habits (a freshly squeezed orange juice now, a fistful of straight-fromthe-tree bananas later) and drift off to tackle the fresh consignment of tourists from Copenhagen, still jet-lagged after the long haul from the near-Arctic to the Tropics.

It would never do, of course, to ask what the Scandinavians paid for their package holidays, but you can bet a papaya to a peanut that it was a darn sight more than the £425 quoted in the First Choice brochure for an eight-night holiday, with flights, bed, breakfast and a couple of parties - Christmas and New Year - thrown in, Most New Brits paid rather less than that; my travel agent offered me a 10 per cent discount, which even with a questionably priced and compulsory insurance deal attached brought the cost down to the £400 mark. And, inevitably, the chap sitting next to me on the flight out had held out until the last minute and paid 50 quid less. Jolly good luck to him, too, since latebookers comprise an essential component of an industry that seeks to maximise val-

ue by making the most of resources. A bit like the government, then. Next year's winter sun brochures are already on the shelves. With a bit of careful planning the Blair clan, plus the entire cabinet (and assorted wayward offspring in need of gentle rehabilitation), can spend a Christmas vacation in the Tropics and still have change out of £16,000. Diving for pearls or jiving for joy - Club Tropicana has it all.



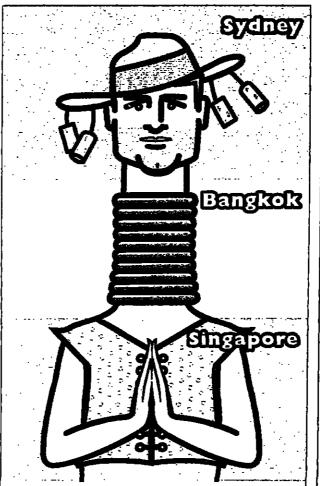
The place where I stayed wasn't actually called Club Tropicana. It was the two-star yearning for rather more exotic fare (and Badala Park Hotel, planted a respectful distance from its four-star brethren on the beach. The accommodation was winningly wonky in the manner of many student flats doors that didn't quite agree with frames, craftsmen that didn't quite agree with each other about the best way to stop the bathroom door handle falling off with every clasp. Only the churlish would complain. though, because like most things in The Gambia the place muddles along in an of-

Improvisational verve means that exactly the same fabric is used for bedroom curtains. tablecloths and, honestly, bedsheets. While you admire such Fawlty-esque touches, remember that you are paying just £50 a night for pride of place in the January sun. Included in this figure is 5,000 miles of air travel, enlivened by very decent meals (possibly up to Pearl Class standards, Tony) and inflight entertainment. Transfers to and from the airport are covered, together with the services of a resilient rep who doesn't flinch when the thousandth new arrival asks about malaria while munching through mince pies and sherry at the welcome meeting.

ten distracted but always jolly manner.

By your third hearty breakfast you are you suddenly notice, with a wince, that that fabric lines the breadbasket, too), Real African life is a 12 pence communal taxi ride away in Serekunda, Gambia's largest town, where the heat rises and the hustle falls. Wintertime, and the living is easy. Your £400 holiday even includes a £20 donation to that nice Gordon Brown in the form of Air Passenger Duty.

Sterling is so strong, and Britain's travel industry so efficient, that even the Chancellor's recent doubling of the UK's exit tax has failed to halt our winter migration. The really clever folk, though, are hovering like the vultures that circled above the cliffs on New Year's Day; the bargains begin this week, and reward anyone willing and able to travel before half-term in February. You can find some ideas in today's Independent Saturday Magazine, or just enter the price war fray now raging in the High Street. Late yesterday afternoon Britain's biggest travel agency Lunn Poly (0990811111) offered me a week on Mexico's Pacific Coast, departing 13 January, for £380. Winter is such a pearl of a buyer's market that the world truly is your, er, oyster.



Qantas introduces the Two-Stop Ticket, £737*

E.g. London - Bangkok - Sydney -Singapore - London

With a Qantas Two-Stop ticket you can fly to Australia via one destination in Asia and then return to London via a second. Choose from seven different Asian destinations or you can fly to Auckland via Los Angeles. All fares are valid on Qantas and British Airways flights. For further details call 0345 747 300.

 Includes all passenger taxes on this route. Valid 16/4/98 - 30/6/98. See your travel agent or call Qancas telesales for information on other seasonal prices. All fares subject to availability.

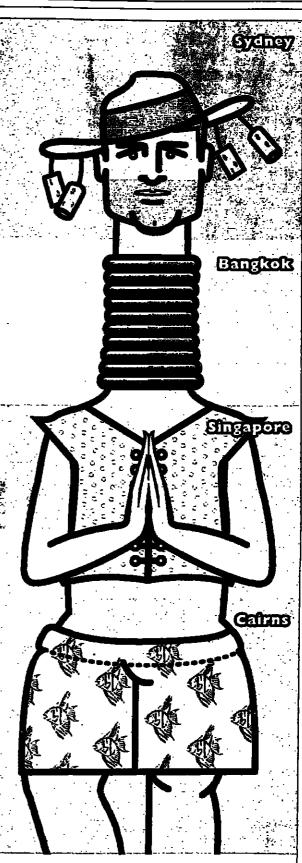


LOW ROAD

Since the handover of Hong Kong last June, airlines flying between the UK and its former colony have found it difficult to fill seats. Now British Airways is trying to shift some capacity by offering an Air Miles bargain. In-stead of 9,900 miles, in February and March it will "cost" only 2,900 miles to travel London-Hong Kong and back. Bearing in mind that the lowest easily available air fare costs about £400, this values each Air Mile at around 14 pence. Call 0990 511 806 for more details.

HIGH ROAD

You can also redeem Air Miles for Club, First and Concorde travel - for double, triple and quadruple miles respectively. The Concorde flight to New York "costs" 27,200 miles return - valuing each Air Mile at around 21 pence, if you calculate from the normal return fare of



Qantas introduces the 3-Stop **Ticket, £844***

E.g. London - Bangkok - Sydney -Cairns - Singapore - London

With a Qantas Discovery Ticket you can fly to Australia or New Zealand via two different destinations in Asia, South Africa, North America and the South Pacific. You can also get an extra stop-over at either Cairns or Perth. All fares are valid on Qantas and British Airways flights. For full details call 0345 747 300

* Includes all passenger taxes on this route. Valid 16/4/98 - 30/6/98. See your travel agent or call Qantas telesales for information on other seasonal prices. All fares subject to availability.



GREEN CHANNEL

Having eaten too much, drunk too much, and become a lounge lizard over the festive season, what most of us need is a long country walk. The problem is, the British - and in particular the English - tend to live in towns. Fortumately, there is a community forest within three miles of nearly 24 million people in England; a dozen community forests now cover an area more than 12 times that of the Isle of Wight.

The Countryside Commission and Forestry Commission are developing community forests as part of a plan to create opportunities for millions of people to enjoy wooded countryside around towns and cities. For those condemned

to urban life, a walk in the woods need not entail a Brysonesque expedition.

Combining woods, farmland, villages, leisure enterprises, nature areas and public open space, the forests serve as "green lungs" for urban areas as well as much-appreciated bolt-holes for stressed-out city folk. With many miles of new or restored pathways and cycleways within the forests, there is also plenty of opportunity to get back to nature and get rid of Christmas flab.

Those who fancy being active in a different way can get involved in treeplanting schemes. Watling Chase community forest, in the London borough of Barnet, has recently planted 6,000

new trees with the help local volunteers and around 500 schoolchildren.

Such greenery obviously provides valuable habitats for local wildlife. It's not exactly a safari, but Andrew Patterson, project director at Watling Chase, points out that increasing native trees within their forest is attracting crested newts, skylarks and stag beetles - all species that have recently been showing a worrying decline.

For information about a community forest near you, contact your local tourist

Sue Wheat

RED CHANNEL

Each time I go abroad to Nepal, Vietnam, India, even Thailand or Colombia, Lget sick. Diarrhoea, heat stroke and general malaise strike ruthlessly, despite the care I take over water, food, sleep and sun. On one occasion I ended up in an Indian hospital, on an intravenous drip, for three

That is no ordinary traveller's story. It is an account by Miranda Haines, one editor of The Traveller's

Healthbook, which is published this week by the travellers' club Wexas, price £9.99.

The other editor, Sarah Thorowgood, tells of sunburn after an overnight drive to the Algarve: "I promptly fell asleep on the then already warm sand until about four in the afternoon ... Quite apart from feeling that I could probably radiate enough heat for an entire Mediterranean holiday season, it became quite exceptionally difficult and painful to sit down. Then the blisters came, followed by great lumps of skin that fell off my back for the next two

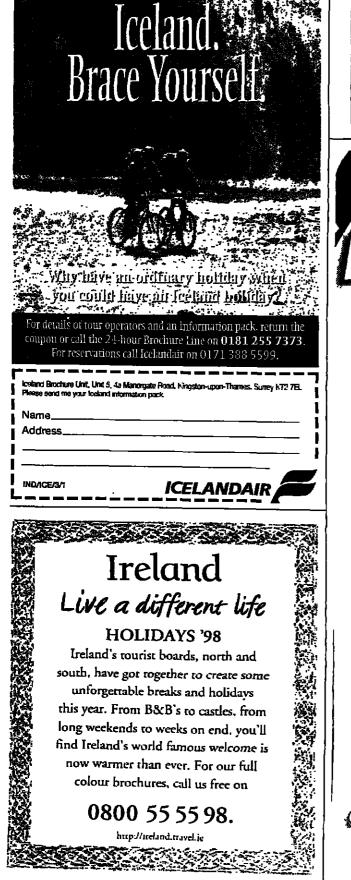
Fortunately, the book contains remedies for these and many other complaints.

Wexas is at http://www.fco.gov.uk/ You can access the latest Foreign Office advice to a range of countries on http://www.fco.gov.uk/



Park City, above and right, is a town under siege by movie people

Photographs: Skishoot-Offshoot



SKI TIP

Change the radius of your turns by counting out loud as you turn. For long turns on open slopes, count to 10. To make shorter turns on steeper slopes, count ONE, ONE, ONE, in time with each turn.



A paradise of premières, powder and poseurs

spend part of your skiing holiday ogling Hollywood stars and seeing the latest films?

Tamsin Murray-Leach glides into the winter wonderland that is Park

For two weeks each January, a strange tribe descends on this peaceful ski town. Skidding and shivering down pretty, snowpacked streets in the de rigueur black designer uniform of New York and Hollywood, surrounded by seven of the best ski mountains in the US, visitors to Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival eschew the slopes in favour of days and nights in darkened rooms; Park City during Sundance must be the only ski town in the world where queues outside the cinemas are greater than those for the chairlifts.

Which is what makes late January the perfect time to ski or snowboard in Utah, especially for those who'd like to add a bit of spice to their skiing holidays. Instead of. say, rounding off the day with an outdoor Jacuzzi and a hearty meal, a trip to the Sundance Festival means rounding it off with an outdoor Jacuzzi, a hearty meal and one of the première independent movies yet to hit the big screen. From 15 to 25 January 1998, the 14th annual Sundance Festival will screen 67 shorts and 103 feature films, 61 of which will be world premières. It certainly makes a pleasant change from

And going to Sundance is also the perfect ploy to get Non-Skiing Partner to agree to a ski trip. Just picture the proposal, usually so fraught with potential confrontation and failure:

"But darling, we're not exactly going skiing. We're attending one of the major motion picture festivals in the world." Pause.

"Yes, you probably will get a glimpse of Robert Redford/ Cameron Diaz."

Pause. Smile. Flurry of pretrip shopping for warm, yet sexy, evening wear.

These days of movie mayhem are not for the fainthearted, however. Since Robert Redford founded the festival 14 years ago, with the aim of developing independent voices and visions in the arts", it has grown to become a focal point of the American film industry, attracting

(12,000 is the official figure). Park City passes saturation point; it is a town held under siege by movie people. Restaurant booths are requisitioned by equipmenttouting film crews seeking interviews with other film crews: the library and conference centres are converted into cinemas; and larger hotel lobbies and function rooms are transformed by nightly parties into meetingplaces for Those Who Are and Those Who Would Be Famous.

Yet none of this need prevent you having ski holiday of your dreams, providing you have a good sense of humour and like a few challenges. Sure, condos and hotels are booked months, if not years, in advance; parking is a joke; and getting a table in a good restaurant becomes a tactical exercise. But don't you see - it's all part of the game. Rule number one: where there are crowds, there are cancellations. And movie people like to stick together, so Park City

hostel usually has beds available on the night, where one can observe the least likely hostellers slinking into the dorms at all hours, stuffing evening gowns into lockers as they whisper loudly about the successful reception of their latest short, and who saw whom at so-and-so's party.

Certainly every good restaurant will be packed. Even the fast food pitstops out on the highway are notoriously busy, offering comfort food to agents and buyers who would rather not deal with another twohour schmoozefest, thank you very much. Yet it is honestly not that hard to get into restaurants such as Robert Redford's Zoom, which does good New American for a surprisingly reasonable price. Book in advance and simply be prepared to beg and wheedle, then beg some more. By all means use that English accent to your advantage, because even a small suspicion that you could possibly be a great British director will get you a table, albeit at an odd hour and perhaps somewhere at the back of the restaurant. One of the many nice things about Park City during Sundance is that most people are terribly polite to strangers. just in case they May Be Someone.

Even getting into a movie is not particularly tough. It's true that pre-festival packages are sold out months in advance, but you're going to be skiing, you won't have time for 15 screenings, two panel discussions, movie breakfasts and access to all parties (gatecrashing these is more fun, anyway). Individual tickets for screenings the usual PG drivel on offer in ski resorts. are not released until five days before the neighbouring village of Kamas for \$85 (£51)

What's the answer, if you want to the odd unrented room left over from a of powder, cheaper lift tickets and a strict group booking. Even the Château Après no-snowboarders policy. This ruling is upheld in old-school Deer Valley, just up the road from Park City, while a few miles in the opposite direction at The Canyons, a newly restructured resort, they attempt to keep poor, discriminated-against snowboarders happy with a machine-groomed half-pipe and a variety of obstacles to hop over and leap off.

Then, of course, there's the snow itself. Car licence plates in these parts proudly proclaim: "Ski Utah - The Greatest Snow on Earth!" This is not a shallow boast. Everything you hear about the legendary Utah powder is true. It is dry and light as a feather. Slicing through a Utah powder field really is like floating on air - a cliché, but no other comparison will do. Even the intermediate skier will find Utah powder manageable, while for experts and snowboarders it is practically nirvana, a legal high inexplicable to the uninitiated, a truly spirit-soaring experience. Partake in Sundance by all means; watch some great films, soak up the glamour, chuckle at the spectacle. Just don't forget the reason you came: the mountains here are better than anything conjured up on the silver screen.

How to get to Sundance, and where to stay when you are there

Tamsin Murray-Leach flew to New York on British Airways for £225 return, and bought her round trip ticket from New York to Salt Lake City on American Airlines for \$364 (£220). She stayed at Patricia's Country Manor Bed and Breakfast in the

SOME BEN ON CHANGE Y

THIS ON!



mières. Once at Sundance, simply show up a mere \$22 per night (001 801 649 9372), an hour before daytime screenings and get in the queue; the earlier the show, the more likely you are to get a ticket.

Just bear in mind that there are glorious mountains beckoning when the Festival starts to seem a bit too much like hard work, and they are practically empty because all the accommodation below is packed with 12,000 film folk. The resort at Park City is the largest in the state, and site of the 2002 Winter Olympics, with everything from long, gently rolling beginner runs to acres of open bowls and glades, prime powder terrain. Yet although there is plenty here to keep even the most experienced skier happy, six other mountains lie within easy reach. Snowboarders should pop over to Brighton, Solitude or Snowbird, famous for back-country terrain and the pros who choose to make their homes here. Traditionalists will revel is full of tiny inns and glorified B&Bs with in Alta, a smaller, steeper resort with lots

filmmakers, actors, agents, buyers and festival, when it is wise to try to book a night (001 800 658 0643); in the Château and on the comfortable carpet of a friend's rented condo. However, travellers from the UK with less time, more money and more sense may prefer to book a package including flights, accommodation and a car through a US specialist such as Virgin Ski (01293 544889) or Ski Independence (0990 550555); a week in late January costs between £700 and £800. The Ski Utah website at www.skiutah.com is a great source of information on both accommodation and the resort itself.

Check out the Sundance Film Festival website at www.sundancechannel.com/ festival98, for details of the 1998 programme. Tickets for festival screenings go on sale from the festival box office on 10. January; use the time difference to your advantage and book early. The box office number is 001 435 645-7280; tickets for screenings cost \$7 each; tickets for premières cost \$10, and for panel discussions \$15.



SYDNEY

PERTH

CAIRNS

alickland

HONG KONG

SINGAPORE

Beling

BANGKOK

Take Off

£297 £535°

£379

£357

£356 £409 £394

£251

Because we think the world of you ...

£170 £211

E175 £211

£193 £237

£205 £274

\$222 \$272 \$222 \$272

£274 £274

£274

£199

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA 536 • USA 529 • AFRICA 531 • PACIFIC 540 • ASIA 527

USA CAR HIRE FROM 520 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

jo'burg

NAIROBI

DUBAI Caribbean

JOURNEY

AMERICA

COTE | Groups & Bespoke From 0181 747 8315

0181 747 3108 0161 832 1441

ANTA Y2527 ARM 2028 IATA AND

sk for our FREE tne

LATIN

CAPE TOWN

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

CHICAGO

PLORIDA

Denver

TORONTO

VANCOUVER

Special Interest Holidays

Puts other holidays in the shade

EXODUS

Leaders in small group walking & discovery holidays, biking adventures & overland expeditions worldwide

9 Weir Road, London SW12 OLT. 0181 673 0859. http://www.exodustravels.co.uk

rojects world-wide, get the

Guide. Call 01865 311 600 with our credit card or send a

to Earthwatch, to EARTHWATCH FREEPOST

ue for £3.50, made payable

🏭 INSTITUTE

SOME BOOKS

CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

This one can

CHANGE EVERYBODY'S.

Cycling Holidays

Cycling & 🍕

Walking Holidays

Leaunity hours through beauthal director & the Black Forest Hand pulsed house Buckets provided Luggage transported. Bruchew from : Beats Microtic & Walking Touris (Ph) The Blac Cross. Orleton, Ludiow. Shopstone. 578 4-PN

01568 780 800

LAS VEGAS

LOS ANGELES

SAN FRANCISCO

Take Off

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

QANTAS/BRITISH AIRWAYS TO AUSTRALIA

FROM £645 RETURN

A CHOICE OF STOPOVERS AVAILABLE

PLUS AUS50 WORTH OF TRAVEL VOUCHERS

TO SPEND IN AUSTRALIA

TRAIL

0171-938 3366

0171-938 3939

0171-938 3444

LONDON W8 6BD

0121-235 1234

0117-929 9000

0141-353 2224

0161-839 696

0161-839 3434

BRISTOL BS1 1HQ

GLASGOW G2 3EH

MANCHESTER M3 2FF

MRMINGHAM B4 6RS

Take Off

42-50 Earls Court Road . LONDON W8 6F1

Long Haul Travel:

Long Haul Travel:

Worldwide Travel:

Worldwide Travel:

Vorldwide Travel:

48 Com Street •

194 Kensington High Street

215 Kensington High Street

22-24 The Priory Queensway

254-284 Sauchiehali Street

First & Business Class:

Transatlantic & European:

Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved

worldwide attention to detail.

I tickets and a strict S. This ruling is up. r Valley, just up the while a ten miles in at The Canyons, a ort, they attempt to ated against show machine-grouned of chstacles whop

erc's the snow uself these parts proudly The Greatest Show ot a shallow hossi. about the legendary It is dry and light as augh a Utah pender ing on air - a cliche. on will do Even the R find Cran powder r expens and mou. ally nirvana, a legal e uninitiated, a truk nce. Partake in Sunich some greatilms, chuckle at the specget the reason you here are better than on the silver screen

dance, and where re there h flew to New York or £225 return, and icket from New York merican Arringsion tayed at Patricin's and Breakies in the Karras for Secretion

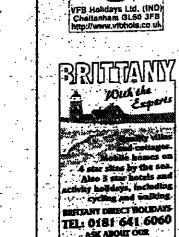
(4.45), in the Course कृत्रकोत्तर व राज्ये छन 医线线性 网络西部分配位 He curpets tatheris wer, travellers menu: into movey and the thork a publisher mmodelan interes فكتتود فأحد فتعلم بوالو o Independent late Januari - 🤏 🤝 iii. The Sc. Charles CHIN IS 3 2 TO VERY

th account in the undance Fig. 1804 andancecha 🗀 🖹 als of the r resinal ser ... 😑 streat best office. e difference by the m The bas day Martin Color effections (; -- ; -- ; -and discuss in

ON trosa £819 per person 10 6217 or [LOE €929 CA -*** South Almost in o marke le ser l

But ill the carrie travel shows **3** and 40 are 100 Come Maria San The Min

and, SR5 388

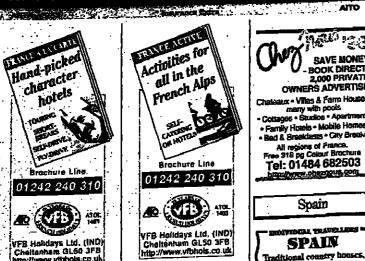


Hand-picked

character

hotels

01242 240 310



The Best Value Camping & Mobile Home

Holidays in Europe

Tel: 0181 395 8565 24irc adults and 4 children, including ferry.





Choose from our exclusive luxury Mobile

Homes or 4 Bedroom Supertents on over

100 of Europe's finest campsites. Take.

two weeks in June from only £299 for 2



0117 986 0777



0181-847 4748

SPAN PURPLE STATE OF THE STATE Paradores, Pousadas, Country houses & hotels in 'undiscovered' Spain, Portugal and Madeira Caybreaks, Flydrive, Coach tours & tailor-made options. NEW: FASCINATING RURAL CAVE HOTELS

MOJACAR - Mountain villege overlooking Med. Det. villa in 3 quiet
acres, 5 mins beach/restaurants.
Stps 6 (3 ensuite bads). Lux,
kitch, akront, fens, 174, HIFT, 3 terraces, gdn, pool. 1800/pw JuneSept. 194/sx + 34 50 478823.
YEAR-ROUND ALTERNATIVE holidays, Alpuljarra region, Southern
Spain. Magnillicant setting, mountains, climate, pool, gerdens, personal development courses.
(01494) 762720.
CASAS CANTABRICAS Hoticays in
Beautiful & Unspolli Spain & Por-CASAS CANTABRICAS Hotidays in Beautiful & Unspoil Spain & Por-nagal. Broch. 01223 328721 AITO RONDA. Large old farmhouse with pool. Tel: 0161 340 4980 ANDALLICIA country costs, methes in natura reserve. Ideal country lovers. Refers 01952 668090 COSTA BRAVIA/ DORADA Vilsas & apts many with pools. Sunselect ABTA V7278 Brochure 0181 707 6794 ANDALUCIA. Casdilla La Mancha. Distinctive & aucaptional country Distinctive & exceptional country properties with private pools in wonderful rural locations & exclusive Sotogrands. Illos Travel 01402 259789 (24hrs) ATOL 1452



DRIVING TO EUROPE? PUT THE CAR IN 'PARK' GERMANY **OGSO 28**\$ 323



Take Off

travel. Traitfinders is your one stop

travel shop.

Trailfinders offers more low cost

anyone. Experts in airfares since

1970, we can tallor-make your very

own package with up to 65% discou on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE

TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1468 LATA ABTA 69781

obits to more destinations than

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods may vary. Includes causes correct at time of going to press.

Jersey - Fare E59/Jca. E10.

Washington - Fare E165/Jcax E44.
South of France - Fare £108/Jcax £17.

Adhens - Fare £125/Jcax £24.
Car hire based on lowest group.
For details see ITV Teletent p.380. your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web sites www.british-airways.com 0345 222111 28th January '98 WORLD OFFERS **BRITISH AIRWAYS**

Overseas Activities **Action Packed** Holidays in the Med and NEW '98 BROCHURE OUT NOW

Book by

Learn to Dinghy sail or Windsurf . ■ Villa flotilla/flotilla RYA courses catering for beginners to experts Mountain biking holidays

Caribbean sailing from only £579

> Avoid the masses quality hididays to lesses PRICE LIST REFER Interior direct to halanna C Lenno extre mannional Fts Leno

eschener septide cellages Calibra, and spileng ACTION HOLIDAYS for 5 to 15 year 0181-847-4748

Skiing Holidays THE BEST SKIING IN FRANCE Indicates the state of the stat BELLE PLAGNE. Private apt. Colour TV. Dishwasher Sleepa 5. Adjacent pisto. Avail. Dec-April. 5200-350 pm. 01277 214445. BIG SKIING, SMAŁL VIŁLAGES, LES ARCS, 3 VALLEYS/VALMOREL

ARGENTIERRE. Warm wedcome, catered chalet, cire village, transp. gd rates Jan. 01582 7898747 7698747
ALPS & PYRENEES. Apartments & hotels in 120 resorts. Ski-drive, accom only. chort breaks. Lagrange 0171 371 8111. ABTA Discover the undiscovered. Nordic skiling. pretty unspolit villages, triendly hotels & great regional tood. 01806 813338 for 98 broch. Headwater ATTO 2412 ATOL. Marian and the Committee of the Committe



However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our ravel insulatios. N. EMSA. Insurance and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference INB01. **0800 700 737**

мышары са польбеготего изга-No need to Compromise Certar exclusions and lateratures apply Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American E-press Service: Encape Literard is an undependent intermediatry governed by the AN Link or Conduct American Express Services Entire Literard Regulated Offices Fortland Notice. Nag Else, Literard SPILE TEX, Registered Nations (1831) 9.

Greece

WhichUNSPOILT GREEK ISLAND

LIPS The wider strong of Greace.
Linson, Remote, brey quiet
uncrowded beaches, Linsue.
TLOS Remote, trangul, servie.
The string where time stands still.
KALYMMOS The Sponge fishers island. Very mendity very Greek.
LEROS Gernie rolling hils.
Sectuced toxis, soorling sees.
SYMI Undiscovered, unspolit turbelevistor beautiful for lovers.
It's all in our amazingly lenest brocher.
TRADITIONAL VILLAS & APARTMENTS FOR THE DISCRIMINATING
THE Specialist Tour Operators to Greece.

REAL GREECE NEW DESTINATIONS
Corfu – Kassiopi, Kalam
San Stefanos, Kommeno
Elounda on Crete
Vassilikos on Zakynthos We still novel to our notificial villages on Rhodes, Hold, Leeves, Parga, Lefkada and Zolayrimos and con how enrange pointing holdays in Leeves and Hold, ealling holdays off Lefkada and romantic vectoings in Lindos. Our tractitional villass 6 accomments are note. a phone call away.

Greece 0181 785 1234 Azores Eghi amanakt-proon selas ideal for auken ad coloren

HE AZORES terdun pewefal lerk-konon pud-timme usinpelyn - fen inunus, sinning senen lock abole washing vallery. Exchol & multi-piant mass Dain digita term Heathers no Labor **99**81-847 4748 SUNVIL

readers of the Independent titles spent nearly £1.3 billion on travel arrangements.



Look closely. There's no hidden extras in our return fares.

amsterdam	from E79 rtn	EDINBURGH*	from £69 r
BELFAST*	from £69 rtn	FRANKFURT	from £129 r
BERGEN	from £199rtm	GLASGOW*	from £69 r
BRUSSELS	from £79 rtm	NICE	from £129 r
COLOGNE	from E105rtm	OSLO	from £159 r
COPENHAGEN	from £149 rtn	PALMA	from £123 a
DRESDEN	from £219 rtn	PRAGUE	from £149 r
DUBLIN	from £79 rtn	ZURICH	from £129 r

Other fares are also available from East Midlands.

Leeds Bradford, Teesside, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554

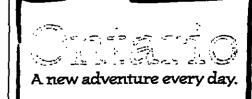
BM British Midland The Airline for Europe

Faires quarted available on selected dates and flights, Subject to unaflatulity Travel must include a Saturday inlight stay. Faires include U8 and foreign levied a cs (exchange nates may vary), "14 days abords blooking required for Belfast, Eurology) and Glasgow at advertised Late level. Calls are reconfed.

The travel section of The independent has the most discriminating, sophisticated and knowledgeable readers of any newspaper.

Synon Calder & Harnet O'Bnen

Holidays Afloat Overseas



ENDINGES WORD FOR A FREE meaning "The Land HOLIDAY of Shining Waters'. BROCHURE CALL 0800 **850 670**

Hardly surprising. considering its 400,000 lakes. Only 7 1/2 hours away every day, all year round with Air Canada which operates

more non-stop flights from the UK than any other carrier -Ontario is the ideal fly/drive Canadian destination with easy access to the beautiful forests, the spectacular shoreline and the magnificent canyons

of the north. Toronto has lots to offer, including ARR ZAMADA fabulous night ONTARIO life, cuisine and

CANADA more chic boutiques than you could shake a credit

card at, while Ottawa. Canada's capital. not only has 13 museums and galleries but thrilling whitewater rafting nearby on the Onawa River. Outdoor lovers will discover the Muskoka Lake District and canoeing in Algonquin Park, not forgetting simply superb fishing in Northern Ontario. Oh, and there's also Niagara Falls.

With all this - and more than \$2 Canadian to the pound - why wait any longer?



Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards Travel Services

TRAVEL INSURANCE AT LUNN POLY

Take Off

£291 £349 £349

£259

£381 £515

£391

£114

Free insurance with any summer '98 overseas holiday costing £299° or more per person. For details ask at any Lunn Poly Holiday Shop or call us on 🕿 0990 81 11 11.†

Lunn Poly

Special Interest Holidays

Central/South America Himalaya South East Asia Canada & <u>Alask</u>a China <u>India</u> Australia

FILLY ATOL 2807

MELISKIING IN ITALY Heliski
Europe offers an all inclusive
week's package in Valgrisanche
in the Aosta valley. A law places
remain for March 198. For a
brochure & further details call OKAVANGO TOURS & **S**AFARIS Cyprus יש טונין זיני

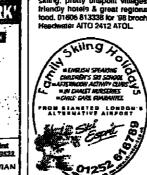
PECIALIST YPRUS Many have a provide peak all have a various hided Plus hads fired the according

Activity Holidays for 6-18 year olds

Mallorca, Plus flexible Wanderwy 0181 995 9323







 ${\mathbb Z}$

. •

Over the last 12 months Source: TGI 1997

EXCELLENT CHALETS/HOTELS.

FROM £199! SERIOUS FUN

son the land

. ்∌

Relaxed Discovery

France

Take a voyage of discovery through idyllic country France on foot, by bike, or by canoe (with your bags moved for you). Choose from twelve contrasting regions, from Burgundy to Provence, and from the Loire to the Alps.

& Adventure Holidays

There are holidays just energetic enough to give you an appetite for the next great meal, with plenty of more challenging options too. You'll see the splendours for which France is famous. But along your path, we'll help you discover tucked away landscapes immortalised by the world's greatest artists, and taste dishes that have inspired the world's greatest cuisines. And you'll see a greater variety of wild flowers, birds and butterflies than you ever thought possible.

Phone now for your 1998 brochure.

HEADWATER 01606 813340

AD ATOL 2412













Country Cottages in France

·W. Coast & Med

Low Prices

0500 404140 Quote \$\$98-I



Villas and cottages, by the sea or with pools. Brittany, Dordagne, Trovence & more 0161 707 8794

SUNSELECT VILLAS

CAPE TOWN WINELANDS GARDEN ROUTE NATAL TRANSVAAL ZUMBABWE A unique selection of Classic Hotels, Game Reserves and Charming Homes & Gardens. Fly-drive with direct flights to Duthan Cape Town, Johannesburg, Harare South African Affair ATOL 2334 S/7 Hambolt Boad, London W6 8OH

01244 355881

AFRICA

Lucary Travel is par apress

Balearics

in unspolit areas, near coast 01954 261 431. AITO ATOL 2787

Caribbean

AAAH CUBAL 0181 681 3612 Inte change ATOL2429

Corsica

CONNECTION

0171-381 5222 SAFARI Luxury horels, villas and tailor-made satinis in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswan, Zamba, Malawi

HOTEL TOURS B & B- 10 Days
289 Inc. ferry/shuttle & breakdown cover. Auto Pian 01543
257777
BONNES VACANCES! 1998
Brochure cet nowl Save £2's,
book direct with owners! 550 seit
contained & B&B props. Travel &
Insurancea. 01306 885555.
S.W FRANCE. Quality villea & coltagee, mant with poots. Countryside - nr. beaches. Francophile
Bonded. 015394 31880.
FRANCE NORD. Pes-de-Catals,
Pleardy, Parls, Moselle, Britteny,
Loire. Holiday homes and short
breaks. 0121 353 4637 ABTA
LOT VALLEY GORGE. 7 superb
cottages [5 with pools]. Sips 2-8
in secret S. France. Tel: Paul
Pocock (0033) 563486291.
BRITTANY. Exclusive cottages,
farmhouses, villes. Country Cottages in France: 01455 852 235
quoting Lif402
DORDORNE/LOT. Exclusive cottages, farmhouses, villas. Country Cottages in France: 01455 852
235 quoting Lif401.
PROVENCE & COTE D'AZUR
Selection of quality properties for
4-14 people. Alf year availability.
2500-04000pm. 01189 402820
VINTAGE FRANCE: Farmhouses
with private pools in hidden
South-West, 01954 261431 AITO with private pools in hidden South-West, 01954 261431 ATO City Breaks





Devon & Cornwall





Liburious remote lodges
Walking, canoeing, riding and guides Superb wildlife.
Adventure with comfort. Call us
to create your ideal satars.
Tel:(01694) 628979 Fax: 639879 0181 995 9323



0171 495 6877 FORMEDITERRANEAN FEAR GOE VOYAGES ILENA - yes Corsica is wonderful - and we do have the widest choice of private villas, cottages and genuine hotels in lovely scenery. See our magnifi-cent new brochure: 0800 763 0025 Allo / Allo Eastern Europe

Artiparos & Sanforin. Superb vilkas. aprs & hotele, most with sea
views. Expert & friendly service
from Skiathos Travel Ltd., aow in
our 20th yr. 0181 94 Ud., aow in
ATOL 1680.
SPRING FLOWERS Breathtaiding
wews & empty beaches. Discover
Western Crete from s/c village
houses, Pure Crete Ter 0181 760
0679 ATOL ATO
CRETE, SKIATHOS, SKOPELOS.
Personalised Villa Holidays. RAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST & Siovaida. Central pensions, hotels & apta. Czechers (01706) slovatili. Central persons, hotels & apts. Czechers (01706) 623899.
CZECH REPUBLIC, Hungery, Poland, The Beltic States, Slovatilia, Romania and Venna. Wide choice of traditional quality hotels, flexible duration short breaks, mutil-centre holidays All in one brochara, large Travel 0171 223 300 ATOL 2329 AETA V9184 PRAGUE, Luxury private aparts and B&B to rent. Exceptional value, all assistance given, 07000 782275.
PRAGUE, Burdapest, Vienna, Bertin & Kristow, Low hotel prices from £14 pp & flights from £148 (inc.tax) (Agent ATOL 1245). Summer Chalete in Stownia, Stovakla & Czech Irom £217 per week, Auto Plan 01543 25777

Germany BLACK FOREST, Bavena, Eifel & BLACK FUREST, Baveria, Ener e also Switzerfand & austria, Hotels (£18 pp) Apartments from £266 px. Auto Plan 01543 257777 GERMANY - Delly low cost flights and hotel accommodation. All major credit cards. Please call German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA ATOL 2977 IATA.

Greece Greek Islands Club Villa holidays for those who want

to escape the crowds in style and comfort. PAXOS • ITHACA • CEPHALONIA Zakyntihos+Kythera+Corfu WITHOS • SKOPPLOS • ALONESCO For a brochure telephone: 01932 220477 http://www.vch.co.uk/villas/ ABTA V395) ATQL 848 ATTQ

ENGLAND



NEW

707 8794
DISNEY/FLORIDA Luxurry 3 bed, 2
bath villa in pine trees. Large
heeted pool, cable TV. Close to
tennis, horse rdg, golf. Tel 0181 Switzerland HOTELS & CHALETS at very rea-

The best in

DALES BEAUTIFUL RENNOVATED

DALES BEALTIFILI RENNOVATED Stone Barms, Sleep 4 to 17, pats welcome, brochure 900 854309.

YORK OVER 30% OFF. 2 star Heworth Court Hotel. Broch 01504 425156.

NORTH YORK moors Net Park over 150 holdey cotts, in Robin Hoods Bary, Whitby & Scarborough. 01723 870703

YORK OVER 30% off 2 star Heworth Court Hotel. Car parking, Broch. Tet: 01504 425156

SUPERB cottages, Yorks Deles, Northumbria, Lakes, Peaks, Sylvas Cottages 01244 345700 www.lita.co.uk/sykes

Holiday *

Cottages
in the
Yorkshire Dales, York, Coast,
Moors, Peak & Lake District
One 200 supe sel-caterony cottages. Write
or phone to our lake allocates.

± (01756) 700872

ADDRESS.

CAPE COD NEW ENGLAND & VER MONT. Superb family resorts &

MONT. Superb family resorts & private houses. Bridgewate Travel ABTA V7278 Broch 016

sonable prices from C25 pp. Apartments from C324 pw. Auto Plan 01543 257777

11

Italy

Adventure & Comfort Related adventures, Friendly comfortable hotels • Excellent regional cuisine • France • Enrope

and the Med . Proven and me Med • Provence Burgundy • Loire Auvergne • Pyrenees Alps • Corsica • Toscany Umbria • Le Marche

HEADWATER 01606 813321



Italy

oman'

essentially Greek holida

Private villas with pools, botal

0181 995 9323

ABTAVISST ATOL 1922 ATTO

India

AIDN

olor made of

Molf Group Tour

Paxos, Corfu, Lefkos, Mega Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zakyni

Greece

Fete

Escape the mainstream and

nscape me massaream an landscapes and warm landscapes and warm outpitality. Country cottages, villas with pools, quality apartnens and family-run tels in unspoli locations. Plan-

0181 995 9323

EFKADA ever inspiring loniar feland. We are a small operator offering only the highest quality exclusive accommodation. From

one in a commodation. From Locury Villes with pools to weter-front apartments. Two Travel Industry Awards 1997. Broch tel: 01580765000. ABTA AITO ATOL. MAINLAND GREECE - ZAGORIA. 44 stone-built, traditional villages . Mountains, ravines, waterfalls wild flowers everywhere. Stay in award winning Rebrach Ims. Flychtes, walking/frekking, photography, painting and Alexander Technique. Brochure tel; 01580 765000. ABTA. AITO. ATOL. SKIATHOS., Pellon. Skopefos,

KIATHOS, Pellon, Skopetos Alonissos, Mykonos, Peros Antiparos & Santonini, Superb vil

CRETE, SKIATHOS, SKOPELOS.
Personalised Villa Hollidays.
Proche 1989 877938 ATOL 2679
GRECOFILE/FILDXENIA Escape
Packages Mainland & Unusual
Islands. Villas, Iours, Ry-drivo.
Since 1979 we've been unpackaging the packages for the discerning! Atol Auto 01422 375899
MAINLAND GREECE is really reagnificent - lovely beeches, mountains, torests to explore. A wide
choice of comfortable private villas, cottages and hotels in our
regnificent new brochure. Veyagee tiena 0800 783 9025
Atol Atol.
A GUIETER OPTION to Paxos.
Lafkas, Zalkynthos, Kefalonia,
Parga, Stoupa and Crete. A quality selection oi private villas.
For our 1998 brochure cañ 0171
233 5233 Greek Options ATOL.
4245.
CRETE Carefully selected small

4245.
CRETE. Cerefully selected small temily run acc., in W. Crete. Transiers by tool or car inc. Brake to CRETE.ATOL 4597. 01622 630004

CITALIA'S ITALY Offering you all that is best in ITALY for over

70 years. For a copy of our 1998 Main or Citybrooks Brocks phone quoting Ref: [ND16 01235 824354

Citalia





TUSCANY UMBRIA & Coastal Regions in Italy

Ladiustre Private Ville & Parmhoures with Swimming Poul yone with T Courts Excellent innovieta as we only deal with A STATE OF THE STA die oraces di TUSCANY NOW

ATOL 2412

1.400 new ways to discover unspoilt Italy Discover Tuscany & Umbria on a guided

walking or cycling holiday. Experience pretty medieval towns beautiful countryside, local cuisine and stay in friendly, comfortable hotels. Ring now for your 1998 colour brochure. HEADWATER

01606 813342 Cottages to Castles

Chaice Callection TUSCANY-UMBRIA NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA Villas sleeping from 2 - 22 people

1998 Brochure out now 01622 726883

Traditional farmbouses, villas and apartments in Italy's prettiest region VACANZE IN ITALIA

Cities, Coentryside & Coest
- the complete selection.
Private vilus, castles, imminuses,
Agriturismo apartments and hotels. BRIDGEWATER'S DYLLIC ITALY 0161 707 8795 24 90URS

TUSCANY NOW T 0171 272 5469 F 0171 272 6184

Juscany #/inbria

Traditional country villa-spartments with pool, charmen, intimate hotels and flexible fly-drive holidays.
'Grand Touring', Painting and
Cookery holidays plus short breaks
to Plorence, Varice and Rome. 0181 995 9323

LA BELLA TOSCANA Very special farmhouses, villes & Apts in 8 ground enchanding medieval San Glimignano between Florence & Siena, 1998 broch, 0151-422-3218
S.ITALY-LECE-PUGLIA, Fist in secontry, restored neo-classic

S.ITAIY-LECCE-PUGLIA. Fist in recently restored neo-classic villa, sleeps 2, strellable all year. Tel 00 39 822 351131 LAKES MOUNTAINS & BEACHES. Wide range of hotels & self catering throughout hally including Elba & Sicily at very reasonable prices. Auto Plan 01543 25777 VENICE: VENETIAN APARTIMENTS has e range of private agists to let. Also Florence, Rome, Verona, Veneto. Tel: 0181 8781130. Figo: 0181

Verona, Veneto. Tel: 9781130. Fac 8780982.email Venica

878130. Fex: 0181
878082.emsil Venice @
dircon.co.uk
SUNVIL DISCOVERY. Flexible flydirves to Tuscamy & Umbria.
Character 8B accom. Plus Sicily,
Lakes and Cdles. 0181 847 4748
ATO ATOL 908.
ITALIAN COLLECTIONS Tuscamy.
Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo, Sardirias, Rome & Venice, Beautiful
Ferminouses & cottages with priveta swimming pools in unrivelled
rural locations. Lisos Travel 01403
259788 (24hrs) ATOL 1452 ATO
ALL SOUTHERN ITALY Sardinia
Sicily selected villas farms hotels
pools 01694 722193 Abol Akto
TUSCANY/SICILY. Select properties in excellent locations, pools
etc. Col Brockure 01539 431120
ABTA VT333.
INVITATION TO TUSCANY Romantic cottages & lucurious villas to
let in some of the lovellest areas
of Tuscamy. Tel: 0171 603 7111 or
7121 429 5016
TUSCAN BORDER Spacious,
restored farminouse. Sizn Lake
Trashmeno. Excellent 360 degree
views. Sectuded. Easy Florence.
Siena, Monteputicano. From
S275. Tel/Fax 01243 528 121



Portugal

PORTUGUESE Affair Quality villus along the magnificent coartiles, and a sulpus selection of manor houses and cottages set in the heart of the giroloss, mispelit coentryside. Stort properties have posts... ATCL 2334 BOOK SETS.

0171-385 4775

Portugal

Truly individual villes with pools, glorious nomer houses and substate house and possessed all over this furchasting country, from the Milaho and the Dours to the lease-between Algerre, Phys Ratilla **Renderby* holidays and city breaks. 0181 995 9323

ALGARYE rural pegce uzi vinta, lovely mountain view, pool, girdu, bbq, 15m8ee coast, 8 edits. Avail 18.44-125ep. 76: 01273 739 120 FRULY UNSPOILT COASTAL VILLAGE. Unique manor, steppa 4-10. Pool. 01832 276396 (www.mds22)10.demton.co.uk/porturesi.jumii for brochum. tugeLiteral) for brochure. SUNVIL DISCOVERY, Fleedbie by-SUNVIL DISCOVERY, Flexible fly-drives North to South, Character BB Pousedes, Manor Hosses, Plus Azores, Madelra, 0181 847 4748 ATTO ATOL 808 WINTAGE PORTUGAL: Cottages with pools in urspoilt North, Minho and Douro, near coast, 01954 261431 ATTO ATOL 2787 ARTA

NDEPENDENT TRAVEL packages. Air tares, groups, INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

SARDINIA with Voyages ilens an island of sturning beaches and magnificent scenery. Our magnificent scenery. Our magnificent scenery. Our magnificent new brockure has a wide choice of private vilias, apts, hotels simple & de luxe. 0800 783 9025 Alto/Atol.

South America SUNVIL DISCOVERY. Costa Rica

Gustemets, Ecuador + Cuba add-on. Highly fleedble individual tours & flydrives. Jungle lodges, rature reserves. D181 847 4748 AITO ATOL 608 Turkey

RKEY '98 away from the eds,closer to the con kiyilic coastai viilaga Gulet Cruising
 Villas with pools Two Centre & Tailor-made Hobda DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS 01452 501978 🕸



PRICES PER PROPERTY PER WEEK					
• Scotland from £107	Norfolk/Suffolk non £11.				
Northamberland from £142	• West Country from £11				
Yorkshire Dales non £109	PETS OD FREE				
■ Lake District from £115	DISCOUNTS FOR				
	2 DEDCOME				

■ Peak District Irom £136 from £107 • Cotswolds

Over 4222 quality cuttages in duant from throughout

FUEL, LINEN, ETC. (NOLUDE)

from £107 • irelanding ferryl from £209 168 PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE



Floridate is received the light of the last the English Country Cottages Country Holidays 01455 852505 choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 436 page colour brochure. U.K. & EMERALD COTTAGE HOLIDAYS

(09901851111 (09901851111 NEW 1908 BROCKURE - CUT NOW Scotland, Borthumburland, Lains, Daies, Peaks, Wales, East Anglia, Rent Sussex, Cortwolds, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Corneati + Fretand prices less than UK even including ferrylli 01756 sykes cortages Yorkshire Dales & Moors, Borders The Lakes, The Peak

The Lakes, The Peak

North

Wales and
Shropshire ALL INSPECTED. Recom dream cottages throughout the UK. Brochure: 01751 475547 01244 345700

Devon & Cornwall



COTTAGE . HOLIDAYS

BUNGALOW & APT- pool. Sea view, beach, travel help. 01624 836660

Cornish BROCHURE 01326 564992 CORNISH WELCOME COTTAGES COMMISH WELCOME COTTAGES, 1998 best ever full colour prochure 01756 702201 gleER. Devon 8 Dorset. Over 150 quality properties in coest & country locations Jean Barriett Cottage Holidays 01297 20973 (24 hrs.), DEVON Specialists. Choose from 1997 430 cottages 01455 857505 (24 hrs),
DEVON Specialists. Choose from
over 430 cottages 01455 852505
(JC202)
FREE COLOUR GUIDE to the 500
best value cottages in Devon
(01271) 376322
CORNWALL Specialists. Choose
from over 350 cottages. 01455
852505 (JC205)

COTSWOLDS Spec from over 160 co 852220 (LIC106) Airport Parking

HEATHROW £4.95 per day. Free parking after 14 days. Max charge £59.30 up to 100 days Secure Parking 0181 813 8130 Dorset

POOLE & DORSET, Over 100 o v.best holiday homes in chol-spots Inc Sandbanks Panins Poole Harbour. Rumsey Holi Homes 01202 707357 FARM COTTAGES ldytlic locatio Tel: 01258 880558 brochure.

East Anglia

NORFOLK / SUFFOLICS Welcom NORFOLK / SUFFOLK'S Welcome
Cottages. 1998 colour brochure.
01798 702205
AMAZING value East Anglis cottages. New 105 page colour
brochum. 01798 702240
NORFOLK / Suffolk s/c properties
quality at keen prices. No charge
for pels. Coast & Country Holi-days. 01993 604490 Fax 604885
NORFOLK Country Cottages. Quality choice of over 100 holiday
properties. Sip 2-10 Tel 01603
871872

EMERALD COTTAGES AMAZENG VALUE - £199
7 INCHIT FERRYBICLISTIE PRICE No. 12 120
1FOR FARTY OF 2 PLUS SARTY
CORK, Kerry, Calvary, Maryo, Clare,
Limerick, Watchow, Waterford,
Westford, Tipperary, Donegal,
Sigo, Offary & ROSECOMMON.
MEW 1988 EROCHMEE: GUT NOW 01756 01756 01756

IISH COUNTRY HOLIDAYS 1998

"PEAK COTTAGES." Quality s/c accom in Derbyshire Dales 8 Peaks, Brochure 01142 620777. PEAK DISTRICT Specialists Choose from over 250 cottages 01455 852506 (LIC204)

Bro 01823 681060 00 INDEPENDENT COTTAGES. Book direct with ow RELAND Specialists, Chaose from over 110 cottages, 01455 852220 (UC107) SHAMROCK Cottages, 286 select individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Fares. AITO. Col Bro 01823 681060 Ireland

GLEN LYN, LYNMOUTH Country Cottages NORTH DEVON of fires. Sea court. Transpublish, contages and 5 recents returned and apartitional of a sequent setting between 2 mer points. Some with 4-points beds grantles fires and warm under these hostings. An ideal belifiar base at any time of the year Telephone: 01598 753207 Postcode EX35 6ER

Cotswolds

The Lake District

YORKSHIRE'S DALES. MOORS and GOAST ... Superio self a catering heliday 110 000 to 1100 110 000 01756 110 000 190919

HILLTHWAITE HOUSE, Wind

Norfolk

THE BLAKENEY

HE BLAKENEY

HOTEL

AATLAG +++

Blakeney, Nr. Holt, Norfolk.
Overlooking Nanoual Trust Harbour, traditional privately owned (freally holed with 60 bedrooms, lift, beared undoor pool, spi bath, samas and nanigen. Relax. walk. sail, play palf.
eaplore the Norfolk villages.
countryside and coast.
Midweek and weekend breaks.
Succhal midweek rates for Senior

Special puldweek rates for Senior

Brochure: 01263 740797

Northumbria

UPERB cottages. Northumbris, York Dales, Lakes, Peaks. Sykes Cottages 01244 345700. www.lifts.co.uk/sykes

The Peak District

Ireland

IRISH COUNTRY HOLIDAYS 1998 the premier choice. 300 individual cottages all tourist board approved. Farmhouses and hotsles, boating holidays and horse drawn caravars. Many welcome pets. Call 01502 560 688 (24 hrs).
The Irish Landmark Trust: experience a unique holiday-siay in a medieval miniature castio, Georgian Dublin panelled merchant house or octagonal lighthouse on the wilds of Wicktow Head. Brochure Ph: 00 353 1 5628425 (24hrs) Fax: 6628187 e-mail: landmark glottle Cottagonal Lighthouse on the wilds of Wicktow Head. Its tellow candes. Exclering in the night, once guided the ships through the darkened waters. Now available to the adventurous holidaymaker. Brochure The Insh Landmark Trust Ph: 00 353 1 6828425 [24 krs) Fex: 6628187 e-mail: landmark glottle SHAMROCK Cottages, 286 select individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Fares. AlTO. Col Bro 01823 691060

Holidays Afloat UK BEAUTIFUL WATERWAY; Surrey, Hants. Lux boats. (01256) 703691. 70,5691.
BRITAIN'S BEST Self Drive Nar-rowboat Holidays. Widest choice. Beginners very welcome. Tel 01905 610097 LAZY DAYS AFLOAT. Award-win-ning canal boats throughout Britain. Early booking offers. For Brochure Tel: (0121) 4452909.

Scotland Country Cottages

in Scotland in Ireland EXCEPTIONAL holiday A MAGICAL choice of properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland. delightful holiday Cork, Clare & Galway. RING (0990) 851133 QUOTE SW211 (24 Hrs) Free full colour brochure RING (0990) 851166 QUOTE GW180 (24 Hrs) WAITE, COUNTRY COTTAGE SCOTLAND, DEPT. 5W211.





HILLTHWAITE HOUSE, Windermers, Thomberrow Road, over-looking take. All rooms ensuite (some with Jecuzzi baths) Salel-lite TV, teamaking, Seuna, Tylo Steam Room and heeted Indoor pool solely for our guests' use. 2nights, Scourse diener 8&8 inct VAT only 159, 3nights only \$130. Brockurs: 015384 43838 LAKE DISTRICT WELCOME Cot-tages. 1998 colour brockurs. freëdom Scotland Cattoges, lodges, farmhouses ideal for families & couples BLAKES COTTAGES auate code DIB604 LINE IN HIGT WELCOME Cot-tages. 1998 colour broture. 01758 702208 EDEN Yours to discover. England's Green 8. Pleasant Lend in the Heart of 2. National Parks (Lakes/Dales). Free accomoda-tion guide. Eden Tourism 01271 336067 01455 852545

Country Cottages in Scotland EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most autiful areas of Scotland FREE SE PAGE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 851133 OR WRITE COUNTRY COTTAGE IN SCOTLAND, DEPT. SW211, P.O. BOX 18, EAST SHILTON, LEICESTER LES EZY.

SELF CATERING COTLAND CONSULT THE EXPERTS Over 2,000 self-catering properties in all areas from luxury houses to croft cortages.

Write or phone for Write or phone for brochure: Mackays
30 Frederick St.
Edinburgh EH2 2JR

SCOTLAND'S WELCOME Cot-lages. 1996 colour brochure. Prone now II 01756 702213 EDINBURGH CENTRAL, FLAT. 4 bed sleeps 8, 2 baths, swimming pool 8 private perking, gym 8 sauna. Wiend Friday-Monday 2245, also some weeks available. 01968 215314. 01668 215314. RETTY STONE COTTAGE In quiet Dumfrelschire conservation vit-lage. Sips 6. Lg garden. STB Highly commended 5 Crowns. Highly commended 5 Crowns.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
01946 50025.
0194

from over 550 cottages. 01455 852505 (LNC201)

Wales

USA

Stop collecting brochures... Start collecting memories 450 luxury cottages voted "Best in Wales" with a welcome as warm as the sunshine.

Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire Tel: 01437 765765 BARGAIN BREAKS GOWER. Idyl-lic 17C larmhouse ensuite DB&B

only £21.Log fires,lic bar.01269 585640 PEMBROKESHIRE, Award winning **BRECON BEACONS HOLIDAY COTTAGES** selection of quality.sensibly priced cuttages. 01238 881297.Coast & Country Cot-Over 100 sell catering cottages in Brecon Beacons/Black Mountains National Park. Some sleep up to 30. Many less than £250 per week high season. tages. WALES Specialisis. Choose from over 370 cottages. 01455 852505 988k kigh season. 01874 676446 (LIC203) ANGLESEY, SNOWDONIA, Lleyn. Menal Holiday Cottages for 2-20. Brochure 01248 717135 Mann's. Shaw's, Snowdonia Tourist. 01758 701 702. ST. DAVIDS. Comiortable 3 bed-

room cottage, 0181 7480043 West Country self-catering 555 quality cottages and farmhouses throughout Wales HELPFUL HOLIDAYS
for West Country
self-Cattering
fluge variety of over 450
coinages, houses, even a fort
a trisdly described & sair rated
Colour brochure 01686 625267 Yorkshire & The Dales 01647 433535

r total rreedom MANY £20 FOR A HOOMER ONLY DEPOSIT BLAKES COTTAGES 01455 85 25 45

WEST COUNTRY COTTAGES. Ho iday properties in Coal land, & Wateralde settin Shropshire

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS Geo

glan country house experience, near Ludiow. 3 night breaks from 250.Colour Broch: 01584 823209

Self Catering UK HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES Hand-picked cottages throughou countryside locations. Some with ning pools, games rooms. Free colour brochure.

Activity Holidays LEARN TO SWIM IN ONLY 2 DAYS SWINGGE

Phone 01502 502 603. Quote C4832 Or write: Hoseasons Holidays, Dept C4832, Lowesott, Suffolk NR32 2LW

> SWIM INNS HAVE NEVER FAILED TO TEACH AN ADULT TO SWIM 01352 780503 (NR CHESTER) FOR BROCHURE



Fill your holiday cottage, villa or apartment vacancies.



Last year over a quarter of a million Independent and Independent On Sunday readers stayed on holiday in a rented villa, flat or cottage.

For only £4.70 per line or £4.11 per line if both Saturday and Sunday are booked (inc VAT), you can advertise your holiday home vacancies throughout the year. Your advertisement will appear in the Time Off section of The Independent on Saturday and/or the Travel Supplement of the Independent On Sunday.

TO BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

Either call The Travel Team on 0171 293 2222 Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm, or e-mail us at mhull@independent.co.uk or fax us on 0171 293 3156 or complete and return the coupon below to: The Travel Team, Classified Advertising, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include your payment by cheque or Access/Visa/Amex/Diners Card

N.B. PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY (TWO PROPERTIES OR LESS) 111111111111111111111111111

INSERTION DATES: CLASSIFICATION: I enclose a cheque for £... made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit my Access/Visa/Amex/Diners account by £... CARD NO: ... EXPIRY DATE .. YOUR DETAILS:

TEL NO: Day Evening. SIGNATURE For further details

please call The Travel Team on 0171 293 2222 INDEPENDENT

To advertise in this section please call the Travel Team on 0171 293 2336.

حكدًا من الاجل

(01437) 781061

the long and winding pailroad

The state of the s Section of the second of the s Service and a se The state of the s

- - ex*9 - # , - u - ... *+* . . . Section 1 ______ _ - · - · - · 94

- . 5 -, ~ · · · · ·

77.

100

- =-

~ \$

٠..

1 154

· 📆

1. A. 1

-

- Tag

....

10 a. 4

% 17 (2) (2) (2)

We Make Sof

Principles of the second

- Kan

#1

The law week to

Mary Services Services And Services Assessed to the Services Assessed t

9/TRAIN-STOPPING

The long and winding railroad

293 ₂₅₀₅

181 995 9323

MENDENT TRAVEL 1404 Street process for Early 2 1 681 2612 ATOL 2429

South Americ

age,

incles.

andent and

holiday in 3

ian ca

ह एक्ट करण विशेष

Epines 2 437-

WE 30000 day and a first

W 7.27

ΝŤ 2222

EXPER :

193 2222

The usual train from London to Manchester takes two-and-a-half hours to cover 184 dull miles. But Simon Colder tracked down a new. wayward addition to the schedules, which adds 150 'free' miles plus eight or so hours, as it meanders around some of the loveliest scenery of England and Wales.

Poetry in motion. The stations chime by as the 3.13pm clatters along; from Clapham to Cwmbran, Warminster to Leominster, Pontypool and Prees to Piccadilly. And only a poet could have conceived so eccentric a ride as the Waterloo to Manchester "express". In a fit of poetic genius, Wales & West has devised the most wayward train in Britain. Hitherto there have been several ways of getting from the capital to Manchester, but until this winter none of them has involved travelling via Wales, or combined the cathedral cities of Salisbury and Hereford in a single, impetuous journey.

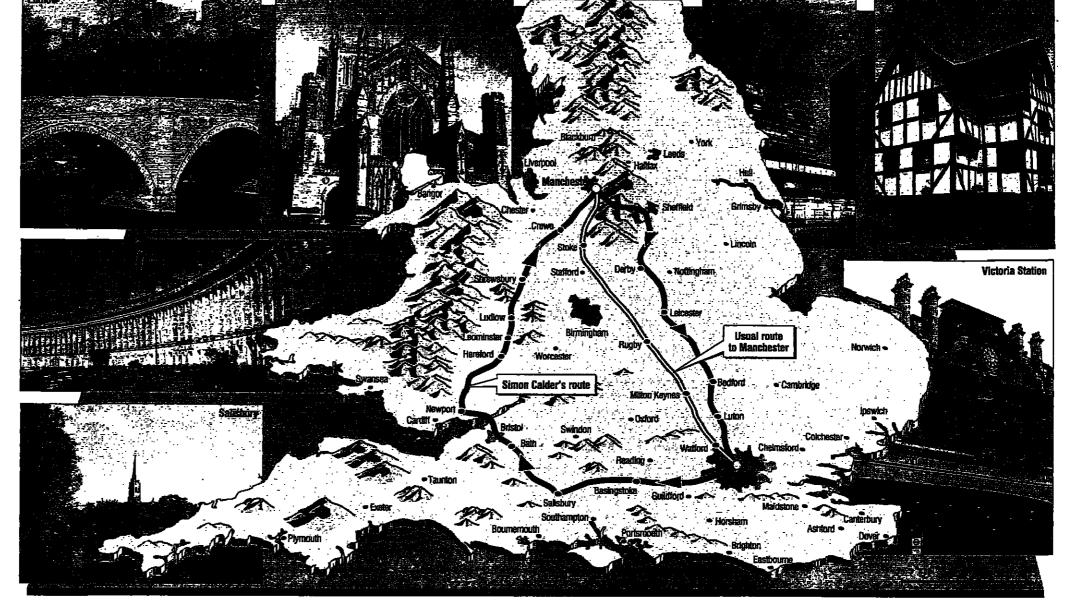
Here's the plan. The train sets off from Waterloo on a south-westerly trajectory, ie away from Manchester. The two meandering carriages pause at Britain's busiest station, Clapham Junction, before setting off for a tour of the Ws: Wimbledon, Woking, Warminster, Westbury. They even manage to pass through two stations called Whitchurch, separated by 150 rail miles.

That's the great thing about the new service: its mere existence means that a blatantly unreasonable route has officially just become "reasonable". And because of a riffle in railway rules, standard ticket holders can take as long as they wish, changing trains at will, and don't even have to catch the 3.13 train once. So you can devise a wonderfully rambling day-trip, like this one.

Oh, and you don't even have to begin at Waterloo. As far as your ticket is concerned, London is an amorphous mass. I could have begun at Charing Cross, Blackfriars or London Bridge, but I chose to begin at Victoria. At 5.32am the train sets off, gathering speed past the brutally illuminated Battersea power station. I am heading due south. To Manchester.

The train, though, says "Brighton", so I abandon the garish Connex SouthCennd switch to the Basingstoke express.

before, but that's because I had never found on the oldest functioning clock in the world. Brunel's Temple Meads station at Bristol myself with an hour to spare at the buffet on the platform. A wide spectrum of faced commuters, spilling coffee as they to keep rather better time than the averyou emerge into Wales. Another marvel: of Chatwin's On The Black Hill.



beading in the opposite direction none too hurriedly, and someone in the corner whose final destination is Manchester.

Choreographing this melée is Peggy, who knows her customers as well as she knows her Brunch Muffin (a delicious compilation of cheese, sausage, bacon, tomato and egg stuffed within a single bap; with coffee and flapjack, a bargain at £2.99). As the 7.15 to Waterloo approaches, the radio scornfully plays the Kinks' 'Waterloo Sunset'. I am in paradise. Dawn is well into its

stride by the time Salisbury drifts into the frame. Should you follow in my tracks, be advised that, in midwinter, Sam is the ideal time to witness the mists around the cathedral softly melting; and be warned that the through train demonstrates a philistine tendency by failing to stop here. Choose one which does. Alight in the half-light, and you can brush against English history, past the remains of the County Gaol and a hopelessly half-timbered Odeon cinema, to the tral yellow as planned at Clapham Junction. most beautiful Gothic structure in the counconveniently attached to the north transept.

Despite having ticked more than 500

most were delayed by 10 minutes or so, which ordinarily would be neither here nor there. But if you are trying to get here, there and everywhere and still reach Manchester in time for tea, any delay is a nuisance.

You soon cheer up, though. Five minutes out of Salisbury, the train is carving through countryside of broad downs, with kindly churches keeping watch over timid hamlets. The people who've just got on at Westbury don't seem to appreciate this performance, you muse, as the train meets up with the Avon, and floats gently downstream with it.

The ticket inspectors are uniformly a cheery bunch, and unperturbed by someone who appears to be five miles short of a cheap day return (railway parlance for a none-too-bright passenger) by insisting on travelling the long way round to Manchester. "Cor blimey, mate, good luck", was the only comment my ticket provoked.

You could subtitle this journey "England and Wales through grimy windows": rail pri-trians and cyclists across the muddy watervatisation has not improved cleanliness. But — course every seven-and-a-half minutes – a try, standing proud of the meadows that lap Bath still looks magnificent through the I'd never thought much of Basingstoke around her fine skirts. Check your progress murk as you are around the city, and does serve a modern-day purpose. is as palatial as Bristol Parkway is brutal.

dash for the London train, railway workers age Wales & West train. None was on time; a refreshment trolley turns up, the first train catering for five hours. A tea costs 95p, but by now you would probably pay a fiver.

> Newport begins uglily, as only down-atneel British towns can. There is no way of getting from the station to the centre without clambering over fierce railings or descending to a tangle of Faustian underpasses. This is car country, or, more specifically, truck territory. When the 40-ton fraternity decides to take over the planet, Newport will be their High Command. But when you clear the hurdles it turns out to be an intriguing town. The museum charts the Chartists, original social democrats whose struggle has interesting present-day parallels. Then down Commercial Road, which becomes progressively less wellnamed as you proceed south.

The saving grace is the 1906 Transporter Bridge, an enormous steel frame over the Usk river. Cables support a gondola, which carries six cars plus miscellaneous pedespiece of industrial archaeology that really

At last, you catch a train which is aiming broadly towards Manchester. As it The Severn Tunnel is here and gone in hurtles north, the climate changes every human life calls in on its way to work: stern- million times in the past 600 years, it seems a flash. Miraculously, a rainbow appears as mile through the spine-tingling landscapes

In Abergavenny, a huge bruiser of a cloud muscles over the horizon; by Hereford, the sun bestows a benevolent midwinter sparkle upon the city. But you have to prioritise; no time to stop here, because my guidebook (a 1936 AA Road Book that I carry for its economical eloquence) promises that down the line lies "One of the most attractive English towns".

Understatement, indeed. After a couple of hours in Ludlow, I would fight its corner against Siena, Aix-en-Provence and Heidelberg. Wondrously preserved Elizabethan houses tumble down the hillside from a castle softened by the centuries to a perfect state of dereliction. The Wales & West scheduler was cruelly overlooked in the New Year's Honours; he or she deserves a CBE for introducing the British to their own country. People of Clapham Junction and Church Stretton, drinkers from Craven Arms and New Inn: you can board a train from your home and alight at what is genuinely one of the finest towns in Europe.

Winter is the ideal time to thread through the Borders. Denuded trees add in empty fields. "Little Switzerland" comes and goes on the left, the Long Mynd Hotel celebrating Victorian exuberance.

The sky, meanwhile, tries hard to snow.

Soon Shrewsbury Abbey pops up on the right, triggering trepidation; what could follow the triumph of Ludlow? Not, I wagered, something called the Shrewsbury Quest, with its resonances of touristic tackiness. But it embraces the Abbey grounds sublimely, while tracing the place and its people persuasively. On a quiet afternoon like this, the man in charge of calligraphy has time to indulge the visitor by describing the extent of medieval monastery and the vandalism of Thomas Telford – then Shropshire's Surveyor - in driving the A5 straight through the middie. A lone pulpit stands solemnly between the road and the goods yard. Its stiff verticality is mimicked on the far side by a fine Victorian postbox, a ruddy hexagon topped off with splendidly unnecessary plumes.

By now it is (a) getting dark, (b) hammering down with a malevolent mix of hall and rain, (c) approaching Crewe ("A great town with a park, splendid public buildings and enormous engineering works", urges the guidebook). Oh, Mr Porter, what shall I do? Stay on board. Finally the little Wales & West wanderer sidles into Piccadilly a poignant fragility to the scene, heightened alongside the Virgin express from Euston. by forgotten, roofless relies lying abandoned Big train, short trip. I had been going for 11 hours. Short train, big trip, great deal.

> Next week: great little train trips. Part one of a series on Britain's unexpected railway journeys.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

CLASSIFIED: INDEPENDENT TRADERS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

We Make Sofas and Sofa Beds

See your Sofas and Chairs being made By Craftsmen and Women Choose your Sofa or Chair and Fabric. Leave the rest to us. **Made to Measure**

Vast choice of fabrics. All leading Brand names. Sandersons, Monkwell Osborne and Little, Liberty and many others. Open 7 days

Welcome Re-Upholstery Curtains and Divan Sets? Certainly! beat any other price of a comparable quality

Call the FACTORY SHOP at Poetstyle Ltd. Unit 1 Bayford Street, Mare St., Hackney, London E8 3SE (Nr Well St.) Tel: 0181 533 0915 2 lines Fax: 0181 985 2953

SATURDAY **3rd JANUARY**

For Sales MAP MEASURERS

Extensive Range ALTIMETERS

Our impressive range of 40 Pedometers allow you to choose the right model for your needs. If you log, Walk, Run, Cycle or you would just like to know how for you have walked the dog, you can measure the distance travelled. Lightweight and Precision Made Instruments

guaranteed for reliability and accuracy. We also have a large selection of Map Measurers, Compasses, Magnifiers, Stop Watches etc. all available at excellent prices. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE despatched by return.

- WRITE FAX OR PHONE FOR -The full range in our FREE colour brachure of quality precisi PEDOMETERS INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN1) 13/14 James Watt Close, Drayton Fields, Daventry, Northants NN1 5RJ Tel 01327 706030 Fax 01327 871633

Letting, Contract and Interior Designers

> CUTLERY RE-SILVERPLATING SERVICE Will make your worn cuttery as ipwards. Also teapols, trays, dishes, etc. Very reasonab prices. Repairs undertaken. Full details from: C.R.S. Butts Cottage Wisborough Green, RH14 OBN

or phone: 01403 700424 MORIARTI'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS (01233) 850214,

Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS IN SCHOOL CLOSE, OURSEY BLEARFIH AVE., MYSS 255 HILL (MYSSEY MYSICS & SMIGHTA: WEST SLEEK RHIT 985 Tel: 01444 245577= Unusual Gifts Unusual Gifts

RRAB GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS SEXSUAL PLEASURE GUIDE! From largest archives saved from 162.1907. Smitey Newspapers SET FOR YOUSE! ONE SECURISE COMMON TO SECURISE FOR THOSE MOMENTS OF PASSIONS FOR YOUR WAS THE COMMON TO SECURISE OF PASSIONS FOR YOUR PASS from 1915 Ready for presentation REMEMBER WHEN \$20 Puriey Way, IN Croydom CR0 4RE

0181 688 6323
or call FIRE 0500 520 000

To advertise in this section please call John Beasley on 0171 293 2344 or Andrew Wharton on 0171 293 2323

EXOTIC SUPPLIES DIRECT 25 C19.99 25 C19.99

Gardening

Hireanng 1978 5th (2.27kg) \$13.50 20th (4/2.27kg) \$48 Hireanng 1972 5th (2.27kg) \$13.50 20th (4/2.27kg) \$25 Hireanng 1975 5th (2.27kg) \$13.50 20th (4/2.27kg) \$48 Hireanng 22/10 5th (2.27kg) \$13.50 20th (4/2.27kg) \$45 **LAFEBER'S**

4b (1 82kg) £19 98 3.25b (1 47kg) £19.99 3 5b (1.56kg) £19.99 CREDIT CARD FAST ORDER HOTLINE TEL: 01227 471666

Post and Padleng: up to 1kg and C2.95, up to 5kg and C2.95, over 5kg add C4 85 CHEQUES PANABLE TO PET CHEF LTD EXPORT AND TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME Honey Hill, Blean, Centerbury, Kent CT2 9JP TEL: (01227) 471668 FAX: (01227) 787806

FINCH CONSERVATORIES LTD A WMT Holding PLC Co ENJOY ALL YEAR COMFORT AND SUN IN A FINCH CONSERVATORY DESIGNED TO SUIT YOUR HOME OR POOL AND BUDGET!

Expenenced staff cover the UK No Obligation FREE Survey Interest Free Loans Freephone for brochure and Free Advice NOW! 0800 378168 or FINCH, FREEPOST, SHEFFIELD \$20 3GZ

TURTLE DIRT TRAPPER MATS

Members of the Conservatory Association

At last - as seen at Garden and Flower Shows nationwide - the door mat that really works! No muddy lootprints or pawmarks on clean floors and carpets!
Turtle Dirt Trapper door
mats stop dirt at the door
of home conservatory or
car with absorbent cotton
wet, dry ar

tell min in positions solved and oven greasy did from shoes and pans. With non-stip later backing, they are fully machine-washable at 40°C, washe in sweet coburt and 3 stee.

Blue, Green, Black-White, Farm, Dark Grey, Seel Brown, Black-Brown. 75 a 50 cm C17 95 + 75 a 190 cm C34 95, 475 a 150 cm C49.95 Plus (3,50 P & P per mal.

from Turtle Mat Co. 92s Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey K72 5HT Tel: 0181 296 0366 JH & CL TURTLE Fax: 0181 296 0360 Fax: 0181 296 0360 BLOOMS of Bressingham Dwarf Herbaceous Border Collection 15 plants for just £14.95

Enjoy effordess colour in your garden with our superb Dwarf Herbaceous Border Collection. The mainstay of any garden, these hardy perennuls are ideal for providing ground colour in beds, borders, rockeries and edges all year round. Our charming collection comprises of 15 plants ranging from 5cm to 50cm in height and includes: Anacyclus depressus - white, grows to 20cm in height, Achillea Tornentosa - better known as Yarrow with gold/yellow flowers, grows to 20cm in height; Leontopodium Alpinum - clusters of small silvery white flowers amid lance-shaped woolly leaves, grows to 20cm in height; Papawer Alpine - better known as the Alpine Poppy, grows to 20cm in height; Papawer Alpine - better known as the Alpine Poppy, grows to 30cm in height; Teucrium Chamaedrys - rose coloured, grows to 25cm in height; Anemone Sylvestris - white bell-like flowers, grows to 30cm in height; Hypericum Calycinum - golden yellow in colour, grows to 30cm in height; Hypericum Calycinum - white like flowers with sprays of white grows to 5cm in height; Sagina Subulata - white, grows to 5cm in height; Sagina Subulata - white, grows to 5cm in height; Sedurn Species - grows to 30cm in height, mixed colours; Dwarf Penstamon Cambridge - grows to 50cm in height, mixed colours; Gypsophila repens White - semi-evergreen with sprays of white flowers, grows to 15cm: Veronica Shirley Blue - grows to 50cm in height, blue coloured.

Our Dwarf Herbaceous

Our Dwarf Herbaceous Border Collection will be despatched in February and March, the plants will arrive in 9cm ransplanting straight into your garden. following our planting plan and horticultural

Offer subject to availability **GUARANTEE 21 01245 326004** We underine our commitment to service, 24 hour credit card order service quality and variety by offering twelve months guarantee on all our plants. Place includes delivery. You can return within 14 days for a full

BLOOMS Bressingham

cucity and vanety by affering twelve months guarantee on at our plants. Pice includes delivery. Disconsistery. You can return within 14 days for a full refund or replacement if not completely satisfied.

BLOOMS of Bressingham

Dwarf Herbaceaus Border Collection(4) of 15 plants.

Please send me: _____ Dwarf Herbaceous Border Collection(s) of 15 plants @ £14.95 each, including delivery.

Address:			_
ļ	<u> </u>	Postcode: _	
l enclose crossed ch payable to Blooms o	iecus/postal order of Bressingham or d	(address on back) for £	mc

ode Cord No: Explry Date: Orders to: DWARF BORDER OFFER, BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM, Mail Order, Admoil 965 (Bressingharm), Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2BR.
Booms of Breamgroom Med Crisol is a direction to the Desertion. If you do not wist
from companies oppowed by EPA Description 1 places too not wist
from companies oppowed by EPA Description 1 places too not not not wist
and Admires CPA Description 2 Availables Door South Mooderon Revision, Commission, Date Of

93 2336.

CUTTINGS

Jean Hill, of Chittlehampton in north Devon, is worried about her panther lilies. "I sowed seeds of Lilium pardalinum in October 1986 in a 5-in pot and they grew well." she writes. "I left them in situ until 1990 when I planted them out, undisturbed, into our very fertile, acid Devon soil.

"In 1992 and 1993 they bloomed very well but, unsurprisingly, they were overcrowded, so in October I divided them. The bulbs were very big and I gave some to two friends and planted three groups of them in my own garden. We all three, living several miles apart, have had this same result.

"In 1994, they showed shoots, but only 2in high. Every year since they have showed shoots, this year reaching 6in, but nowhere near flowering size. I recently dug up one of my groups of bulbs, just as the foliage was changing colour. They were very healthy little bulbs and roots.

"My friends have one group in light woodland, the other in the vegetable garden. We are all very patient gardeners, but are now beginning to lose patience. Why have the bulbs stopped flowering?"

Lilium pardalinum, the panther lily, is a showy and generally easy American species that in the wild grows up to at least 5ft. The flowers curve back on themselves and are richly red and gold, with dark spots round the centre. Left to itself the plant makes a matted mass of rhizomatous roots, with little clusters of bulb-like scales providing the growing-points for the flowering stems. The mat is important, as it provides the reservoir of food and drink for the flowering stems above.

Since Mrs Hill and all her friends have suffered the same problem, I would guess that the disturbance caused by dividing the original clump is probably the cause of the lilies taking a step backwards. Perhaps too much of the rooty mat was lost in the division. so that the lilies need to build themselves up underground again before they have the strength to flower.

Our recent dry summers may be a problem, too. What Lilium pardalinum likes best is a soil that is well drained, but moist too, with plenty of leaf mould and humus to keep the root-run cool. It doesn't like wind and it doesn't like deep shade. The acid soil that Mrs Hill talks of should suit the plant well, provided it does not dry out. The bulbs are happiest with at least 5in of soil on top of them.

But at least they seem to be trying to recover lost ground. The growing shoots are getting bigger each year, rather than disappearing altogether. When they have built themselves up to their former strength I am sure they will come into bloom again. Meanwhile, Mrs Hill needs to keep them well watered.

The winter lecture series arranged by the University of Oxford's botanic garden starts this Thursday, when the garden designer Noel Kingsbury talks about the "new wave" of perennial planting (mass planting, German fashion, for anyone still riding the old wave). In this series, lecturers have been invited to explore "Passions and Prejudices". There will be plenty of both on 29 January, when Robin Lane Fox explains the way to "Better Gardening". Lectures start at 8pm in the Garden Quadrangle Auditorium, St John's College, Oxford, Tickets, £6 a lecture, from Louis Allen, at the Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford OXI 4AX (01865 276920).



The instant garden

Suppose you are given a garden for six months, and £100 with which to make it beautiful. What plants would you buy, and how would you get round the fact that you will seldom be there to weed and water them? Anna Pavord presents the ultimate lowmaintenance source of beauty and edible vegetables.

Sunflowers were the stars of a quick-fix to be around at the right time, to whip the garden that I planted last summer for a friend who had a six-month lease of a cotto the end of September.

to be cheap. She wanted it to peak in Au-seed to the start of flowering. If we sowed gust, when she would be spending most too early, they would peak too early. time at the place. She wanted it to retain the atmosphere of an old cottage garden, with a mixture of vegetables and flowers.

The patch was roughly 20ft square, bounded by gravel paths on two sides. Once it had grown cabbages; now it was completely bare. There was no outside tap, way my friend would be using the place only at weekends, except for the August stint. So this had to be a garden that demanded little upkeep, where the plants would be left pretty much to find their own food and drink. The soil was light and fast-

The first things to go in were standard a boundary alongside one of the paths. This ate up the lion's share of the £100 budof the gooseberries, balanced on long, 4ft learned about them in Joyfull Newes out of

image of what an old-fashioned cottage by the super-optimist John Frampton. garden should look like. I egged her on, because I love them too. They were planted as soon as she moved in, so from the

At the beginning of April, too, I started off the sunflowers, two seeds each in a series of 3-in pots. Watered well, then wrapped in cling film, the pots needed no attention until the seedlings poked through. Nonetheless, I thought I'd keep them on my windowsill at home until they were ready to plant out. You need cling film off the pots so that the seedlings can stand upright. You can sow them ear-

Sunflowers have become deeply fashionable, the bonus for gardeners being that there are now masses of different kinds to choose from. I used 'Moonwalker' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.79 for 40 seeds), a branching type about 4ft-5ft tall with pale yellow flowers. I also so watering would be a palaver, and any-sowed 'Full Sun' (Suttons, 99p), a more traditional, golden yellow type, and 'Gold and Silver' (Mr Fotbergill's, £1.25). which has yellow flowers above soft velvet leaves of a silvery-grey green.

Sunflower colours range upwards and downwards from the standard bright yellow, to include a pale ivory and a deep, rich mahogany. They've been planted in cotgooseberries, four of them planted down tage gardens for so long that we think of them as being part of our culture, but, like most of our garden flowers, they are forget, but neither of us ever regretted the eigners, brought over from America in the extravagance. The round, lollipop heads 16th century. English gardeners first

stems, suited my friend's picture-book the Newe Founde Worlde, translated in 1577 on the side of the plot furthest from the

"It casteth out the greatest flowers," he wrote, "and the moste perticulars that ever hath been seen, for it is greater than beginning the patch looked less forlorn. a great Platter or Dishe, the whiche hath of a crop, but two of the plants got going divers coulers ... It showeth marveilous faire in Gardines."

From the same part of the world, at about the same time, came the nasturtium, which I also started off in pots for my friend's cottage garden. I used two kinds, 'Jewel of Africa' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.19) which has long, trailing shoots of marbled foliage, and 'Empress of India' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.29), which is much bushier, with steely, blue-green tage, running from the beginning of April lier than April, but I was thinking of the leaves and deep, luscious red flowers. Nas- ter for the rest of the summer. I'd chosen August deadline for the cottage. Sunturtiums are a gamble. Sometimes they the courgette Taxi' (Mr Fothergill, £1.55) The brief was simple. The garden had flowers generally take four months from get choked with blackfly. I've been lucky for its bright yellow fruit, and the plants' take the chance.

> should cover the ground under the gooseberries, in a strip about 4ft wide. As an extra precaution, I pushed a few seeds direct into the ground there and put jamjars over them, to protect them from voles.

> activity when we planted out two widely spaced, staggered rows of dahlia cuttings behind the gooseberries. The plan for the plot was very simple. Everything was planted in parallel rows, in the old-fashioned way. The dahlias were all red, yellow or bronze, 'Hamari Gold', 'Christopher Taylor, 'Alva's Doris', 'Jescot Julie' and the like. Some, such as 'Grenadier', had dark, purplish foliage. We also planted some slips of globe artichoke, which I'd detached from the sides of mature plants in another friend's garden.

These made a kind of informal hedge ries with insides like pudding wine.

gooseberries. The slips needed watering in well, but on that light soil they made fresh root very quickly. They were there for their looks rather than with any hope quickly enough to produce heads later that mmer. That was a bonus.

Meanwhile, I had also sown seed of tomatoes and courgettes, raising the plants, like the nasturtiums and sunflowers, in single, 3-in pots. By the end of May, both were big enough to set out in the patch. We planted four courgette plants in a line next to the dahlias, watered them in well and mulched them thickly with mushroom compost. They got no more wamuscling in. An outdoor bush cucumber without the glistening splashes of yellow.

In the same late-May session, we planted out the sunflowers and the tomatoes, setting them alternately in a single row in the space that was left between the In May there was another sourt of courgettes and the artichokes. The tomatoes were tall, cordon ones, the sort you have to tie to a stake and nip the side shoots from. Bush tomatoes would have been more labour-saving, but there wasn't enough floor space for them in the patch. And I liked the idea of the tall, stout stems of the sunflowers broken up by tomatoes, hanging with bunches of red fruit. 'St Pierre' (Marshalls, £1.06) was the one I chose, because its flavour is so good.

> By August, the gooseberries had cropped, one of the bushes producing huge, amber-coloured dessert gooseber-

Undiscovered by blackfly, the nasturtiums swirled outrageously around the gooseberry bushes trunks, regularly attempting to take over the path, as well as their allotted strip. But you can easily pick up the shoots and lay them in the direction you want them to go.

The dahlias exploded, though the rain that helped the courgettes to produce a bumper crop snapped one or two of the stems of 'Hamari Gold'.

However, weeds never had a chance against the beefy foliage of the courgettes and the artichokes. Only around the stems of the sunflowers and the tomatoes did a little light hoeing have to be done now and again.

For a minimum outlay (without the gooseberries, you could have done the whole thing for £20), the plot gave a long with them in my own garden over the last wide-spreading leaves acted as an extra and brilliant display, as well as providing couple of years, and so was prepared to kind of mulch, stopping weeds from at least £20-worth of vegetables. The vegetables were a particular source of plea-The plan was that the nasturtiums would have done much the same job, but sure to my friend, because she had never before grown anything she could eat, and hadn't realised it was so easy. Every tomato, every shining courgette was a miracle, as far as she was concerned.

Quick-fix gardens have to rely to a great extent on annuals. In this particular case I used nasturtiums and sunflowers because they bulk up more quickly than other flowers. In a smaller patch, a mixture of marigolds, poppies and eschecholzia might have been more in scale.

Get seeds from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (01473 688821), Suttons, Hele Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QJ (01803 614614), Mr Fothergill's Seeds, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 552512), SE Murshall & Co. Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 466711).

THE INDEPENDENT **ANTI FROST HEATERS** From £13.95 inc pap



Beat the frosts this winter with one of these high quality paraffin beaters. Made in Britain to strict safety standards, you can choose from either a floor heater or a hanging heater. Both are ideal for use around the home, in a conservatory, in the greenhouse or garden. The Floor Heater is perfect for protecting plants in a small greenhouse or cold-frame and can also be used in the garage to help make starting the car a little easier. It holds

iust over two litres (half-gallon) of fuel The Hanging Heater is also ideal for using in a greenhouse as well as in a shed, out-house or garage. It requires just over half a line (one pint) of paraffin to provide gentle warmth for 80 hours, guarding against frost and helping to protect pipes that are liable to

freeze (not for use in lofts).

The Floor Heater is just £16.95 and the Hanging Heater is just £13.95. Both prices include p&p.

HOW TO ORDER Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order/s. NO CASH please to -

THE INDEPENDENT ANTI FROST HEATER OFFER JEM House, Littlemend, Counteigh, Surrey GU6 8ND For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01483 204490

Please quote 'IND569' when ordering. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject

Hanging Heager(s) @ £13.95 each inc play I enclose a crossed obeque for \bar{z} Scord to: THE INDEPENDENT ANTI PROST HEATER OFFER. JEM House, Littlemend, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8ND.

The mystery of the disappearing spring salmon

The salmon in our rivers are disappearing. Why? And what can be done about it?

If the owners of a great fishing river put out a cri de coeur, something must be seriously amiss - and so it is on the Tweed, which flows out to the east coast on the borders of Scotland and England. The spring run of salmon, once the river's glory, has dwindled almost to nothing, and nobody is sure why. The River Tweed Commission has launched a major conservation programme.

Not only fishermen stand to lose if the river runs down. A survey carried out by the Deloitte Touche consulting group in 1996 showed that fishing contributes £12.5m a year - more than 10 per cent of local tourist income - to the Border economy, and supports 500 full-time jobs.

Including all its tributary burns, the Tweed has nearly 2,000 miles of waterways. The natural fecundity of the system is not in doubt, as I saw when I went electro-fishing with Dr Ronald Campbell, chief biologist of the Tweed Foundation, which is charged with enhancing stocks of salmon and trout.

He was working that day in the Turford Burn, where the water was only about 6in deep, and so clear that - until Dr Campbell switched on his erally between 9,000 and 10,000 a side of smoked salmon, a sweatshirt or Tweed, or on many other British rivers.

was alive with flashes of silver as trout fry and part turned belly-up, temporarily stunned by the 200-volt current. Every one was netted and meticulously measured before being returned to the water; and from the morning's work we could compute that this single burn con-

tained more than 400,000 infant fish. The challenge is to ensure that the highest possible numbers of this huge

DUFF HART-DAVIS

stock survive to maturity and eventually, after going out to live at sea, return to the river to spawn. Already much has been done in the upper reaches of the system. Miles of new fences prevent sheep and cattle from eroding the land at the edges of burns, and the banks themselves have been extended into the stream, increasing the depth of water and speed of flow. Man-made obstacles have been removed, so that fish can move up to spawn, and artificial pools have been created.

Yet all this work seems to be havevery detail of the bottom was visible. ing only a limited effect. The number The burn appeared to contain no life of salmon taken on rod and line is gen-

tuary is between 8,000 and 9,000; but only a small proportion are caught before 1 June. Thirty years ago, spring rod catches were around 5,000 a year; now they are little more than a fifth of that.

Small wonder, then, that radical proposals have been made. From 1 February, netsmen are asked to return, and tag, all salmon caught up to 1 June (they will be compensated by a reduction in the levy they pay). Anglers are being asked to return "a majority of fish caught up to the end of June".

"In general," says the recommendation, "there will be a presumption that the first fish taken will be returned (unless it is the angler's first-ever salmon)." The second fish may be kept, but the third should be put back, and so on and all fish returned to the water should be tagged. "The first fish is the most important. It is putting this one back

that will make the difference." Further, there will be a ban on killing any fish found to be tagged already. "A tag in a fish should be regarded as its passport to the spawning grounds." The theory is that all concerned will be encouraged to play ball by the reassurance that if they return a fish to the river, it will not be killed by anyone else.

The Commissioners have also applied for a legal ban on worms and lures with multiple hooks on the lower reaches; and they are offering a reward - a

ring anode. Then suddenly the water year, and the number netted in the es- a collection of flies - to anyone who puts

back a previously untagged fish. Clearly the scheme will depend to a large extent on personal honesty. Judith Nicol, the lively director of the foundation, concedes that there may always be cheats; but, she says, "There's tremendous enthusiasm for the idea.

because it involves everybody." So far, so good. But what is happening out to sea? Nobody can answer that key question. The Commissioners are hoping to persuade the drift-netsmen who operate in inshore waters to postpone operations until the beginning of June. Yet driftnet catches have also declined drastically, and global warming may be having a disastrous effect on salmon stocks in the Atlantic.

The theory - so far unproven - is that warm water has pushed up into the normally cold areas of ocean between Greenland and Iceland, where salmon go to feed; that higher temperatures are affecting their food, and that the fish are not attaining the size or strength they need to return to their native rivers and spawn. Smolts - second- and third-year salmon - are thought to be particularly at risk.

I, for one, would not want to fish if I could not keep what I caught; for me the whole point of the exercise is to bring home something delicious to eat. But evidently there is no longer room for such caveman attitudes on the

مكذا من الاحل

Lulubelle ha

It really was the pits A disused coal-mine in Leicestershire has been

transformed into a science park to entertain the whole family. Louise Duffield made an extended pit stop.

When you struggle for almost an hour to prise your children away from the exhibits and into the car for the home journey, you know the attraction has hit the target. But when it takes almost as long to round up the adults, then it's scored a bull's-eye. That's what happened to us at Snibston Discovery Park in Coalville, Leicestershire, which is built on the site of the former Snibston Colliery.

The hands-on Science Alive! gallery has experiments based on the weather, parts of the body, and energy. Where else could you get the chance to walk through a tornado, or watch how the joints of your legs move when you ride a bike? Then there's the engineering gallery, the transport gallery, the extractive industries gallery, the textiles and fashion gallery...

Until 6 November, the discovery park is hosting an exhibition celebrating 75 years of the BBC and 30 vears of BBC local radio - giving visitors the chance to read the TV news and become a radio presenter.

Once outside the enormous

exhibitions hall, the learning through play theme is extended into the science play area. This is an educational play area at its best.

Add to this the wheelwright's workshop, the nature trail and the Century Theatre, and you have a recipe for sheer fun. Not to be missed is the tour of the colliery

buildings, given by an ex-miner. When George Stephenson, of railway fame, sunk his first mine-shaft at Snibston in 1832, he could have had little idea that mining would continue until 1986, when the site was imaginatively turned into Leicestershire's premier tourist attraction.

Dianne Williams, a student teacher from Derby, went to Snibston Discovery Park with her sons, David, 11, and Robert, eight.

Dianne: I thought it was lovely because it was spacious and open-plan. and there was plenty of room to move around the exhibits.

In many ways it was better than the Science Museum in London, because it was not so busy, and it was small enough to do it all in one day. But there is plenty there for a full day out, and it seems excellent value. It also appeals to families. Small children can watch what's going on; older children will be inquisitive - why this, why that? - and secondary school children will understand. There are coming off. If you put your hands on

one or two areas specifically for the it one of the beams comes to your

I was impressed that not only did I thought it was funny when the the instructions on the exhibits tell miner locked us in the elevator - it you what to do, but there were also looked as if he was going to send us signs that explained what was going down, and I was kind of nervous in on. And there were signs in braille. a way.

liery tour is a good idea. Anyone

under-fives, too, which is good,

To have ex-miners giving the col-

round and explained what was what,

David: I enjoyed the interactive

stuff. There were some interesting

books there. I bought a 3-D model

Robert: I have been before - about

two years ago, with the school - so

I knew it would be good. I liked the

pretend radio with lots of buttons.

There was also a lock thing, which I

was experimenting with making

three sets of water rise and fall. There

was a hollow football with a ball in

of the Periodic Table.

his experiences.

was puzzling.

could have taken a party of people Snibston Discovery Park is in Ashby Road, Coalville, Leicestershire but he really brought it to life with (01530 510851). Open every day except 25 and 26 December. November to March 10am to 5pm, April to October 10am to 6pm.

science bits. I liked the solar-powered Admission: £4 adults, £2.75 children boats - you can control the dimness five to 15, under-fives free, £2.95 conof the light, and that controls the cessions, £10 family ticket (two speed of the boat. All the stuff there adults and three children). Colliery tour: adults £1, children 50p. Educ-I quite liked the bit where you can ation and group rates on request. talk on the radio and go on the tele-Access: disabled access throughout vision. I was very interested in the colthe exhibition hall and to most of the liery tour. The dynamite bit was good. colliery tour. A variety of special The shop had a good range of needs is catered for.

Toilets and baby-change facilities: plenty of clean toilets. Baby-change facilities and toilets for the disabled. Catering: a café/coffee shop, with a range of basic snacks, cakes, drinks etc. Indoor picnic area.

Shop: spacious and well-stocked, incorporating a bookshop. There is also a tourist information point.

Education: the park is tailor-made for school visits, of which Snibston has many, at all levels. It also hosts the middle with electrical lights a variety of temporary exhibitions and



Mine host: Snibston Discover Centre

MOTORING

Thrash the latest Porsche? You can with a Nissan

If you thought all Nissans were boring, Roger Bell has news for you. The Skyline GT-R is a technical tour de force, and entertaining too.

geomy at the

11 you can also be

fed,th in this

reffes from Julia

demonstrate that

grant the course.

sundithurier co

g have to be a to

Linear Control

region to a large for

W2022 *** ** 172

A South Control

 $(\underline{u}_{n+1}, \dots, \underline{u}_{n+1}, \underline{u}_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Sec. 12. 23

gradient in

2014

g : 1 ... I ... I ...

100

الاستثناء المراجعين

nd -

act . -

•

1.5

de the are

建理特别是"为":""

Mi Calcian

die Control

克斯林 377

The Main

MERSON IN

J kertana

hades les

forth at

og the Maria

men to the

A A A

(facilies from t salte path in All.

> There is something amiss here. Think Nissan and your mind should focus on sound, sensible, unimaginative family saloons, not beguiling soul-mates for speedy connoisseurs. So what's this? A maverick model that is getting rave reviews from enthusiasts of the specialist press, and can take on - and beat Porsche's new 911? Surely not.

its true. The akyline GI-K is a formidable machine. Skylines in var- a car with an ugly visage and lines ious shades and abilities have been around since the late Sixties, spearheading Nissan's competitive endeavours with more than 200 significant race victories. Hitherto, they have found their way to Britain only through the back door, as personal imports by well-heeled aficionados. However, the ninth quire legendary status is now a listed model - at £50,000. Import restrictions will limit the total sold in this country to 100. Fifty grand is a lot to pay for a Nissan, let alone

that hardly define grace or elegance. It's the bruising muscle beneath the

explains the price, if not justifies it. Power comes from a race-bred straight-six twin-cam engine, aided by two American turbochargers that boost output to 280 horsepower more with electronic fettling that iteration of the only Nissan to ac- might invalidate the normal threeyear/60,000-mile warranty. A rearbiased four-wheel-drive transmission system, centred on a fivespeed manual gearbox, allows the wheels with the most grip to get the

skin of this two-door tearaway that

lion's share of the energy. Anoth- eruptive torque (as well as a discreet er novelty is that all four wheels are steered, and not always in the same direction.

Fears that the driving experience may be diluted by technical overkill are unfounded. What sets the Skyline apart from most other hightech supercars is that it is as entertaining as it is able. Performance is terrific, though the car's competition ancestry is betrayed by the engine's low-rev languor. It needs to be spinning freely, if not actually raced, before the twin tur- the wheel should draw you into the ment includes two airbags and a CD bos come on strong, generating action, not distance you from it. player. There is room in the back

snarl) that makes short work of overtaking. Even on wet roads, the Skyline's power can be safely deployed without destabilising wheelspin. You can do things in a GT-R that would send into a spin, say, an

There is a meaty tactility about the Skyline's controls, particularly its sharp steering. It is the mark of a great car, as opposed to a good fast one, that the feedback through

Aston Martin Vantage costing four

There's more, however, to the Skyline than dynamic prowess engendered by a strong engine, tenacious traction, mighty anti-lock brakes and amazing cornering powers.

Apart from being enormously rewarding to drive, and very safe with it, the Skyline is an eminently practical and civilised mode of transport. Although the ride on stiff, handlingbiased suspension is firm to the point of being harsh, embracing seats and air conditioning ensure long-distance comfort. Other equipfor two adults without cramping and the boot - its lid weighted by an adjustable "wing" that exerts downforce at speed - is generous. There is nothing special about the cabin or the conservative, mainstream

dash, which could have come from any up-range executive hatchback. Snags? Other than the price, and high running costs, the Skyline is officially available through only one distributor - St Helens-based Middlehurst Motorsport. Even with a collection and delivery service. routine maintenance could pose

Specifications

Price: £50,000. Engine: 2.6 litres, six cylinders in line, 24 valves, 280bhp at 6,800rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox, four-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 155mph (governed), 0-60mph in 5.0 seconds. Fuel consumption: 21 mpg average.

Audi A8 4.2 Quattro, £51,896. Bigger, roomier, plusher 4x4 car than Skyline, with the emphasis on luxury and comfort rather than performance. Beautifully made.

BMW M3 3.2. £38,420. Sporting com pact with strong image and tremendous performance from lovely engine. Much cheaper than Skyline, but not so fluent in its handling

Jaguar XK8, £49,625. Elegant luxury coupé with smooth V8 engine and auto transmission. Not as fast or roomy as Skyline, but looks a million.

Porsche 911, £64,650, New 911 is faster, quieter, roomier, less flawed than the old one but it's less involving. Refinement has robbed it of

MY WORST CAR: RON MOODY'S FORD CONSUL

Go man, go, she said. Lulubelle had other ideas

My worst car was, as is not uncommon, my first. It was a 1951, second-hand, £400 off- rub shoulders with the common white Ford Consul convertible with a dark green hood and whitewall tyres. The number plate was LBL 282, so she had and threatened her bonnet but to be a Lulubelle, a name jus- 1 chivalrously took the blame tified at once by her feminine temperament.

Some might have attributed her poor compression to four delicate cylinders, but I knew she kept in third gear at a steady 25mph to look after me as took one member of the cast until I'd had more experience.

I was playing at the Apollo mate revue For Amusement Only, and decided to drive in for a matinee through Berwick designed, Lulubelle proved new £1.300 off-white Ford Zo-

Street market. Lulubelle was deeply offended at having to coster barrows and nudged them imperiously out of the way. The costers swore at her and paid to have the first of her many dented doors repaired. After the Apollo run, we drove

off on a provincial tour. She floated between theatres like a bird but if I so much on board, she rumbled and juddered and steamed and stalled. Theatre in London in the inti- As for pulling the birds, the purpose for which white convertibles with whitewall tyres were

possessive and impossible. My first date was a Canadian girl who asked me why I travelled all the time at 25mph and in third gear. I said the Lu-

lubelle liked it, and never saw her again. Another girl leapt into my flashy front seat after a party and said "Go, man. go!" That didn't last either. It was about this time that Lulubelle exposed her worst fault. She sulked. I accepted the occasional starter-switch seizure as unfortunate but when she became tearful and resorted to damp starts, the end was near. After seven years I sold her

in part exchange for a car

named Mac. a 1959, brand

diac convertible with a dark green hood and whitewall tyres. As I drove masterfully off in my shining bright, macho male knight of the road. I noticed a young student walking around Lulubelle, giving her a very ardent inspection. I swallowed a pang of jealousy and

Ron Moody has worked in showbusiness for nearly half a century. He has written several books including Very Very Slightly Imperfect' and 'The Devil You Don't. The Amazon Box' is his first children's book. which is published by Robson and priced at £14.95. He was talking to James Ruppert.

MOTORING

Isn't it time you tried the Personals? Markand Carol, Helen and Jim, Bob and Sarah, this is Maria

Metro Hearts

Introducing The Independent Voice Personalse - an exciting new telephone dating service for our readers, designed to make your search for someone special easier and more successful than ever!

> To place your own FREE personal ad, call 0800 216 318 ...EVEN THE CALL IS FREE

For FREE live assistance from a Voice Personals' representative call Monday-Friday 9am-8pm



Voice Personals' appears in The Independent each Saturday in the Time Off section and in The Independent on Sunday in the Real Life section.

To advertise in this section please call Simon Debono on 0171 293 2742

Citroen

Registration Numbers

ndependent Readers Will Know

CHIMERA 4.0 XANTIA VSX 2.01 16V mber 1996 (P) Suplestre Black, ONLY <u>25 miles</u> ! P' Reg Air Conditioning Cooper Green, 4,000 miles, P.A.S., kick plates, Two Years Warranty, Wilton Carpets, alarm, Six Months Tax £13,495

XM 2.5 VSX TD ESTATE Metallic Blue, 42,000 miles. 'M' Reg. Full History!

01442 871234 (Main Dealer)

Two Years Warranty Six Months Tax £11,995 with £1,000 01442 871234 (Main Dealer)



out, garaged from new.

Full TVR service history,

£28,500.

0181 466 7258

mmund

Peugeot

Writing is something everyone can do - and the benefits to your whole life can be surprising. Patricia Cleveland-Peck joined a 'creative journal' course.

With a new year comes a fresh chance to sort out your life. You know the feeling: nothing seems impossible; this will be the year to travel, ditch that hopeless man, start that new job. write that book. Some people even commit these optimistic thoughts to the pages of their brand-new diaries - but sadly, the majority of resolutions are abandoned before the month is out.

Yet, according to Simona Parker, who runs a workshop known as "creative journal", the simple expedient of writing a diary can help you to make sense of your life. The journal used in her method, however, is anything but simple, consisting of 20 separate loose-leaf sections to cover different aspects of your life and personality: Body, Work, Here and Now, Relationships, Dreams, etc.

"They are not there to classify your psyche," Simona says, "but to open doors. Each is a channel of energy, and by working in the sections, the material starts to shift and interrelate so that transformation and growth can take place and a sort of sense of one's life can emerge."

Her method owes a lot to Dr fra Progoff, a Jungian psychologist who developed the Intensive Journal Workshop in America.

"He is undoubtedly the master," says Simona, "but I have taken his method out of a rather rigid framework and simplified it for our European culture." Like Progoff, she uses the principles of "depth psychology", which seeks to integrate an individual's conscious and unconscious aspects, but she brings to it a background in "transpersonal psychology". The aim is to move transition and crisis." forward from a static position.

"When you get used to the journal." Simona explains, "you'll find that it will almost do the work by itself; the crossreferences free your energy and reveal examples of the Jungian concept of syn- it gives a purpose to your past life. It helped chronicity, or meaningful coincidence, me when I lost my son ... it just works."



icularly useful in times of decision-making,

This is endorsed by Liz, who has been attending Simona's workshops on and off for 10 years. "It is an extraordinarily efficient way of putting a grid over tumultuous experiences," she says. "You need a grid -

which will give you new insights. It is part- Liz, who was an English teacher, has now write, can cause initial apprehension: this speech; being a solitary activity, it draws on taken up writing; as a bonus, she finds that disappears when you realise that your jourthe journal helps with her memories. "It brings you right back into the spirit of the thing, evokes it and gives you an understanding which is quite special."

You don't need to be a great writer or even particularly literate to use this method. Negative memories of school, or the belief that only academic or "educated" people

nal is for your eyes only. (Simona's old journals are kept in a locked bag inside a big

a potent symbol if ever there were one.) In fact, the simple act of writing itself, according to research by Gillie Bolton, of

a deeper well. She encourages people, especially those with stressful lives, to engage in personal and reflective writing. She has black trunk that dominates her sitting-room, worked with doctors and others in caring professions, and is now involved in a project whereby they suggest therapeutic writing to their patients. Sometimes she finds Writing, she claims, is more powerful than which a person has erected around them- don W4 (0181-995 5320).

selves", and their pens write unexpected things. This is especially useful for people who find it hard to talk about their worries. She, too, emphasises the importance of privacy. What is said cannot be unsaid, but in a diary you can contradict yourself, try things out or write nonsense without the embarrassment of anyone knowing. It can, she claims, also pin things down. If you just try to think things through, your thoughts may trace familiar circles, "only to slip away with the ghost of a laugh", but if you get them down on paper, they are there to work with.

This reflective writing offers a path to the inner being through several unusual techniques. One of these, which Simona's "creative journal" method shares, is the Jung-inspired "dialoguing", in which you write down an imaginary conversation with anything or anyone of importance in your life. This permits you to "talk" to people, living or dead, with whom you have "unfinished business". Often the guilt felt after the death of a parent or other loved one can be defused in this way, and areas of conflict can be resolved. You can also "dialogue" with parts of your body - giving your lungs, for example, the chance to complain about how you "look-after". them when you just must have a cigarette.

Another interesting element in the "creative journal" method is the "crossroads" section, in which you can explore the "roads not taken", or areas of regret in your life - and, by writing about them, move on. Many of Simona's clients have found that the method leads to valuable new insights. Ann, an American who has been working with Simona sporadically for 17 years (most clients begin with the intensive weekend workshops, then return for further, one-to-one consultations when necessary), finds it "helps to give space in the world of chatter around us - it helped when my husband left me".

Simona herself is often astonished by the significance of what she has written, finding that it reveals much that would not occur to the conscious mind.

Simona Parker's "creative journal" workshops Sheffield University, can be therapeutic. that the writings "slip between the bars are held at 11, Brackley Road, Chiswick, Lon-

jancheum s

7

. #72 741

< 205

CONTRACTOR THE

Single Drawn The pression of the same

John Strain Marian teatr

the to be to contrar

GAMES

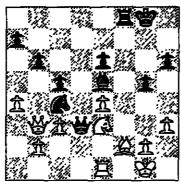
THE FIDE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP: WILLIAM HARTSTON

Michael Adams's fine run in the 24 gxh6 Rxf4 25 Bxe7 Qxe7 26 Nd5 Qh4 27 Qxh4 Rxh4 World Chess Championship came to an end when he lost a rapid-28 Rxe6 Rxh6 29 Re7 Rg6+ play decider in the semi-final 30 Rg3 Rxg3+ 31 hxg3 Rb8 against Viswanathan Anand. Here is a blow-by-blow account of their match. Game 1: Adams sacrificed a pawn in the opening, gaining Re8 46 Kf4 Re1 47 Kf5 Ra1

attacking chances and pressure that lasted until the endgame. Anand needed to defend with great accuracy to save himself. The game was eventually drawn only when White's last pawn was about to disappear from the board, leaving only the two kings: White: Adams Black: Anand 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 0-0 Nc6 6 c3 Nf6 7 d4 Nxe4 8 d5 Ne5 9 Re1 Nxt3+ 10 Qxf3 Nf6 11 c4 e5 12 dxe6 fxe6 13 Bg5 Be7 14 Nc3 h6 15 Bh4 0-0 16 Qh3 Kf7 17 f4 Rad8 18 Rad1 Rg8 19 Qf3 Rge8 20 Rd3 Kf8 21 g4 Kg8 22 g5 Nb7 23 Qh5 Rf8

32 Rd7 Nf6 33 Nxf6+ gxf6 34 a4 Rf8 35 Rxb7 Rf7 36 Rb8+ Rf8 37 Rb7 Rf7 38 Rb8+ Rf8 39 Rb5 Kf7 40 a5 Ke6 41 a6 Ke5 42 Rb7 Kd4 43 b3 Kc3 44 Kf2 Rh8 45 Ke3 48 Kxf6 Rxa6 49 Kf5 Ra1 50 Ke6 a5 51 Kxd6 a4 52 bxa4 Rxa4 53 Rb5 Rxc4 54 Rxc5 Rxc5+ 55 Kxc5 Kd3 draw

Game 2: This time it was Adams who had to defend accurately to save himself. Anand pushed hard with the white pieces, but never quite built up enough advantage to win the game. Adams managed to blockade a dangerous looking passed pawn, while also leaving himself enough flexibility to prevent an attack on his king. Drawn in 48 moves.



Game 3: The first real missed opportunity of the match, Anand played well to develop a powerful position with Black. In the diagram position, however, he gave in to the temptation to play 29...Qd2? when 30.Nf5! exf5 31.Qxc4+ solved White's problems. Instead, 29... Bd4! would have left Adams struggling. The game was eventually drawn in 35 moves.

Game 4: The last of the slow time-limit games produced the fourth draw in a row, but Adams had to demonstrate high defensive skills to save himself after his Marshall Gambit had left him a pawn behind for very little compensation. Just as his position was looking at its worst, however, he found a nice way to create some counterplay. Eventually, Anand could do no better than steer the game into a level endgame. Drawn in 46 moves.

The quick-play deciders: games five and six (25 minutes for all moves, plus 10 seconds per move completed) were both drawn, the first quietly, the second a wild affair. Games seven and eight (15 minutes, plus 10 seconds a move) were also drawn. So the stage was set for the sudden death play-off. Four minutes to White; five to Black, plus 10 seconds a move.

White: Anand Black: Adams 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Nf3 Be7 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Bc4 Nxc3 9 bxc3 0-0 10 0-0 Nd7 11 Bd3 Qc7 12 Qe2 Re8 13 c4 g6 14 c5 Nf6 15 Ne5 Bd7 16 Bf4 Qc8 17 Rab1 Nd5 18 Bg3 Rf8 19 Rfc1 Bf6 20 Nc4 Bxd4 21 Nd6 Qd8 22 Nxb7 Qf6 23 c6 Bc8 24 Rb3 e5 25 Be4 Be6 26 Rf3 Qg5 27 Qc1 Qe7 28 Qa5 Bb6 29 Qa3 Qxa3 30 Rxa3 f6 31 Nc5 Bxc5 32 Rxc5 Nc7 33 f3 a6 34 h4 Rad8 35 Rc1 Rd2 36 Be1 Rxa2 37 Rxa2 Bxa2 38 Ba5 Rf7 39 Rd1 Nb5 40 Rel Ne7 41 RdI Nb5 42 Rd8+ Kg7 43 Ra8 Bc4 44 Rb8 f5 45 Bc2 Bd5 46 Rb6 Nd6 47 c7 Nc8 48 Rb8 Rf8 49 Ba4 Be6 50 Bc3 Kf6 51 f4 Kf7 52 Bxe5 Ne7 53 Rd8 Nc8 54 Kf2 Ke7 55 Bc6 a5 56 Bb7 Kf7 57 Bc6 Ke7 58 Bc3 Kf7 59 Bxa5 Rg8 60 Bb4 Na7 61 Ba4 Nc8 62 Bc5 h6 63 Bb5 g5 64 fxg5 bxg5



Michael Adams resigning the final game of his match against Viswanathan Anand

That well-played victory earned semi-finalist, Michael Adams Viswanathan Anand a place in the takes home \$375,000 (£220,000). final against Anatoly Karpov and a minimum of \$768,000 (£480,000) prize money. The winner of the world championship will earn \$1.37m (£850.000). As the losing

which means that the last game was worth £4,000 a move. Great fun for the spectators, but is this really any way to decide a world chess championship?

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Murray Lachian Young, 28, poet and satirist.

As a metropolitan Londoner, I play the Tube Game. This is where you check out all the reflections in the glass of underground trains to see who you're sitting next to. Everyone in London plays this game - you'll often see businessmen ogling young ladies - but they all pretend they don't.

People do like looking at each other, but it can be dangerous. Sometimes you might feel the energy of intense weirdness coming from the person sitting two seats away, and you think: "Oh, I'll just check who that is." It's usually someone who has been waiting to catch you looking at them, so they can attack you in some way.

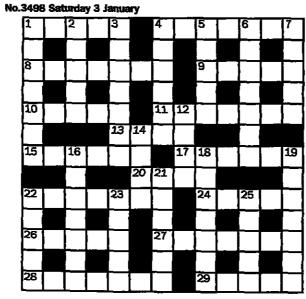
I was playing another of my solitary games the other day. Somebody had said something very rude to me earlier on in a meeting, and I was working on a hindsight put-down line. It was something about somebody waggling at me the blunt instrument which I presumed they thought was their wit. Something along those lines; or I could have said: "My car is parked on a double yellow line, and I'm afraid I'll have to go and talk to the traffic warden."

The best put-down I've ever heard was on television recently. A man on a talk-show programme asked a woman a very suggestive question, and all she said was: "Scuse me. I'm goin' go feed ma dawwwg."

I get very tense and nervous, and if you want me to be horribly western about it, then games can be a good way of letting off steam. I'm one of life's natural junkies, as it were; often in the state which most people take drugs to reach, so for me, games are a natural barbiturate. Did I mention that I've played football ever since I shook hands with the England captain and goalkeeper David

Murray Lachlan Young's latest book, "Casual Sex and other verse", is published by Bantam Books. price £7.99.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS Wait in line (5) Amuses greatly (7) Clear of blame (7)

Seeped (5) Horseman (5) Fundamental nature (7) Main point (4) Food store (6) Overturns (6)

Chances (4) Staying power (7) Greek letter (5) 26 Also known as (5) 27 Observed (7) 28 Period from 1811 to 1820

29 Long-limbed (5)

Disagreement (7) Moved gently (5) Extend (7) Greek city state (6) Christian symbol (5) Medicated sweet (7 Grasslike plant (5) 12 Breeding establishment

(4) 14 Metallic element (4) 16 Berkshire town (7) 18 Book of psalms (7) Book of psalms (7) Be an onlooker (5,2) Delicate (6) 22 Flight of steps (3) 23 Norwegian dramatist (5) 25 Type of nut (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Jam, 3 Maker (Jamaica), 7 Aviation, 8 Tuba, 9 Lost property. 10 Indeed, 12 Hasten, 14 Auld Lang Syne, 18 Burr, 19 Tribunal, 20 Layer, 21 Hod. DOWN: 1 Javelin, 2 Means, 3 Mango, 4 Kittens, 5 Robot, 6 Limped, 11 Elderly, 12 Haggis, 13 Emerald, 15 Usual, 16 Alter, 17 Youth.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

65 h5 resigns.

	Game all; dealer South	b
	North	
	◆K Q 10 3	
	♥KJ96	
	◊752	
	♣ 42	
West		East
4 8764		♦ AJ52
♥7 <i>5</i>		ଅ42
♦K83		◊J 10 9
♣ J963		♣A 1085
	South	
	∳ 9	
	♥AQ1083	
	◊AQ64	
	♠KQ7	
	•	

"Not much to be done there!" claimed South after going down on this deal. It was true that the adverse cards did not lie well for him, but he had missed an early point.

South opened One Heart and North contented himself with a raise to Two. South made a try for the heart game by bidding Three Diamonds and, although he had an unfavourable holding in diamonds, North went on to game on the strength of his maximum single raise on the first round.

West led the eight of spades against Four Hearts and the king lost to the ace. The jack of diamonds came back but the finesse lost and West led another diamond. South could take one discard on the queen of spades but there was no way of avoiding the loss of another diamond and a club.

So what was it that South had missed? The spade position looked clear after the lead of the eight of spades and it was his play to the first trick that proved costly. He should have played low from dummy instead of putting up the king.

East wins with the jack of spades and returns a diamond. Declarer can afford to finesse because, later on in the play, he can take a ruffing finesse in spades which will be worth two tricks to him; thus both losing diamonds can be discarded.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

Mrs Hudson had cleared away the final remnants of our most excellent Christmas dinner and Holmes and I were relaxing in front of a roaring fire. At times such as these Holmes is wont to reach for his violin. To distract him and thus preserve the peace and calm of the evening I decided to ask him a question on his

favourite game. "Holmes, when contemplating doubling your opponent you have often talked of market losing sequences. I am still having difficulty with the concept. Perhaps you could explain it to me?"

"Certainly Watson, nothing would give me greater pleasure. Whenever you are considering doubling your opponent you must have a threat which, if carried out, would cause him to drop your double next turn. The important point to remember is that before that next turn both you and your opponent will have rolled the dice and made your moves. Thus in considering how the position may look next turn you have to consider a sequence, your own roll and your opponent's. A market losing sequence is one which changes a position from a take one turn, to a drop on the subsequent

"Now I understand," I replied. "Do you have a rule of thumb for how many market losing sequences justify a double?"

"Ah, Watson, you touch on a subject close to my heart and one on which I may shortly produce a short monograph. Firstly, remember that evaluation of backgammon positions is dependent on the skill of the person performing the evaluation, so that what may be a take to one player is a drop to another. That should always be an influencing factor in your doubling

"However, let us assume that you are playing someone who you think will make rational doubling decisions. In that case my analysis leads me to believe that you should double if at least 25 per cent of sequences would lead to you losing your market. This equates quite simply to 50 per cent of your rolls followed by 50 per cent of your opponent's. I have more work to do to refine this further but I think you will find that a useful guide for the time being."

"Succinct as ever, Holmes. Now, how about a glass of post-prandial port?"

"Provided it's not too sedimentary, my dear





Rubber bullets: inner tubes have only the one control - gravity

Photographs: Eric Kendall

Ride

me".

95 5320 c

if is often association in shet she bes where 🛬 emach that would be

"Contains from the Augustian Contains and Co

mile Hard Commen

215 575

Pedal the foot-pump and off we go. a spin on traditional tobogganing and flies by the seat of his pants.

sliding downhill, snow-tubing has several more dimensions: more ups, more side-toside, more fun. Just climb aboard a large inner tube and slide down a slope, without the precision of metal runners or worrying about how to steer with your toes.

Compared to the standard craft used for descending snowy slopes - wooden sleds, plastic trays and bin liners – inner tubes are uniquely comfortable and utterly uncontrollable. They also stide on any kind of frozen surface, from ice to the kind of loose snow which bogs down an ordinary sled, leaving snow-tubers in operation on otherwise unsledgeable runs.

This makes tubes perfect for the multitude of UK snow conditions that are normally compressed into the space of 48 hours, mimicking the range of an Alpine season from winter powder to spring slush. And though this kind of versatility is generally found at the expense of performance, it's

not the case with tubes: they are fast. Don't, whatever you do, look for a big banana skins marinated in axle grease, and sticking into the centre of the hole. Aim with

There's a smoothness to their acceleration. the feel of a low-speed car-skid on ice where the lamppost across the street looms slowly. inevitably, hopelessly larger. With the slightest push-off you're away, the ride as perfect as mag-lev without the magnets or the levitation - until you get sent skywards by a bump. It's a magic carpet, with only the stalk of the tube's valve to prod you back to reality. The total lack of control and omni-

directional aspect of a tube means the right type of slope is fundamental to your survival - a gentle U-shape is ideal. Barring catahigh sides of an appropriate slope keep you safe within the confines of the run, veering scarily from one edge to the other but always coming back to the centre for a treefree run-out.

Riding technique is dependent on your mood, though lying back and thinking of whatever comes to mind is the norm; climb or jump aboard, legs and arms spread like hill or a steep one. Tubes are slidier than a starfish over the tube, with your bottom

affords terrifying glimpses of upcoming obstacles beyond your boots, but by the time you reach cruising speed and hit a truly inspiring section of terrain, you'll have spun round to see just swirling sky, maybe the top of the slope, and your life flashing in front

Staying on board through bumpy technical sections is largely determined by the length of your limbs. With long arms you can hang on tight; otherwise, a reasonablesized hillock will fire you upwards out of the tube. If you and the tube carry on in roughly the same direction, you'll land on strophic mismanagement of the launch, the it again, with another bounce. If not, it's the end of the comfy bit of the ride.

If you manage to stay connected throughout, undulations first cause shock and outdoor leisure shops. ripples, then waves when you hit the big one - a pneumatic effect that could hardly be called suspension, as it amplifies rather than absorbs the shocks, taking the rough edges off, but giving the ride of your life.

Though unplanned ejections are all too easy, bailing out is virtually impossible thanks to the enveloping hold of the tube due to reduced burn clearance. Stacking two doo lift service.

It's all in the bounce. While sledging is about go like the clappers on a moderate incline. your feet pointing downhill to start with. This around you - it's like trying to sit up on a small tubes may be a possibility if you can half-submerged Li-Lo. And that's the essence of tubing. Light the blue touchpaper and recline - just make sure you're pointing in a safe direction to start with.

Tubing basics

Truck inner tubes are available from commercial vehicle tyre dealers - car tyre companies don't normally stock truck sizes but they'll probably know a man who does. At around £25 each, tubes represent stunning value, considering their nautical potential during the summer months.

Tubes can be inflated at a filling station or with a foot-pump on site. An electric pump (run off a car's cigarette lighter) is ideal, and can be found in quality camping

Experiment with pressures according to snow conditions. The science of tubing is in its infancy, but generally, harder equals faster; you'll know you've overdone it when you hear a very loud bang. The apparently logical solution to prevent small people from falling off - a smaller tube - isn't practical

work out how to stick them together.

Tubing dangers are minimal on the right terrain, though involuntary loopingthe-loop off larger jumps usually results in head-first landings.

Clothing is as for sledging - it gets hot going back uphill. The traditional tobogganing trick of plastic bags secured over woolly mitts with elastic bands is optional.

Where to tube

Much of the UK's typical tobogganing terrain is ideal. Look for gentle slopes without major obstacles and no sharp rocks - a blowout at speed could be catastrophic.

For more organised tubing try Seefeld in Austria (local tourist office fax: 0043 5212 3355). The resort features a purpose-built run served by a lift. The bobsleigh-style track eliminates the chance of going off course or of encountering skiers, other than James Bond stunt doubles.

Blue Water Acres (fax: 001 705 635 1483) in Ontario, Canada, has a perfectly shaped natural run complete with jumps and ski-

Up tor and down dale in the steps of the Devon tin miners

A Devon reservoir forms the focus of a walk that recalls Sir Francis Drake, and the area's historic involvement in tinmining. Cive Fewins takes the path to Sheepstor.

We started our walk at one of the most unusual pubs in the country - the 15th-century Royal Oak in the pretty village of Meavy, on the southwest edge of Dartmoor. Since 1894 the pub has been the property of the parish coun-

Our object was to walk the hills around Burrator Reservoir, the main source of Plymouth's water. We wanted to see the two historic leats (water channels), one of them built by Sir Francis Drake in 1589, and to explore some of the industrial history of the area in which tin is said to ... have been mined for more than 1,000 years.

From the Royal Oak we walked towards the village school. Left of the old smithy is a gate with a sign marked to Burrator Dam. The threequarter-mile walk there passes gently upwards through woodland. Part of the path is, in fact, the dry bed of a section of Drake's Leat.

We soon reached the road that crosses the dam. On a wall in front of us was a 1985 plaque marking the 400th anniversary of the Act authorising the construction of Drake's Leat.

Instead of crossing the dam we took the road going due north round the lake, where after about 200 yards or so we spotted our second goal: the end of Devonport

Leat, another man-made watercourse, built about 100 years after Drake's Leat to supply fresh water to the naval establishment at De-

We had achieved two of our objectives in the first mile or so, but there was call for complacency. We had another seven miles, including a large tor, ahead of us.

After about another 200 yards we came to Burrator Lodge, a large Victorian house now containing offices belonging to SouthWest Water, which owns the reservoir and much of the surrounding land. The road divides here. We took the left fork, and after a few hundred yards found ourselves on a small bridge over the Devonport

Leat. We took the signposted path into the conifer plantation on our right, and followed the swift-flowing leat.

After about a third of a mile the leat disappeared beneath a minor road. But only temporarily. We crossed a stile to reach the road and looked left, to see a flight of wooden steps and a wooden stile at the top, on the other side of the road, where we once again picked up the

We passed through another plantation for about a quarter of a mile, until it joined a metalled road at a point marked on our map as Lower Lowery. We then followed the road - the leat runs beside it - which affords good

mile, at a point called Cross Gate, we stopped and photographed the ancient hexagonal stone cross, then moved smartly on, straight ahead. leaving the metalled road to descend towards the

We knew that the area to which this track led was littered with old tin-mining workings from hundreds of years before Drake dug his leat, which ceased activity only in the early years of this century. We soon saw evidence of extensive mineral workings on the slopes, now largely cleared of trees.

We continued along the track, which eventually brought us to the ruined Standlake Farm. After about

After another quarter of a another 500 yards we saw another ruined farm ahead of us. We took a signposted path which goes sharply to the right, travelling almost back on ourselves along the bank of a small stream. through a newly-planted

> The path descended to Noraworthy Bridge, a popular beauty spot. We left the road to the rear of the car park, passing another ruined building - an old tinners' mill - on the wide, hard track to a point marked on the map as Deancombe.

After about two-thirds of a mile the path descended to a boggy area - Deancombe Marsh - where we crossed the stream on a small bridge created by a huge, flat stone and took the second of two signs to Sheepstor Common.

This was the longer of two routes to the top of our next objective - Sheeps Tor - but it allowed us to see a group of spectacular old boulders that had been used as mortar stones by the tinners.

When the valley grew narrower we looked out for a small footbridge, marked on our map, which crossed the stream and led south through the woods to an area of extensive tin workings, including a fenced-off mineshaft. From here we made towards the summit of Sheeps Tor. The view was severely limited by rain so we descended by the shortest route to the metalled lane - Tor Lane - leading to the comparative haven of Sheepstor Village.

Here in the churchyard is a huge granite memorial to Sir James Brooke, the first white rajah of Sarawak, who died at Sheepstor in 1868. Inside the church you can buy a leaflet explaining how the Brooke dynasty continued to be rajahs of Sarawak until the Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

Our route back from the village lay downhill, through the glorious oak and beech Burrator Woods. We took the

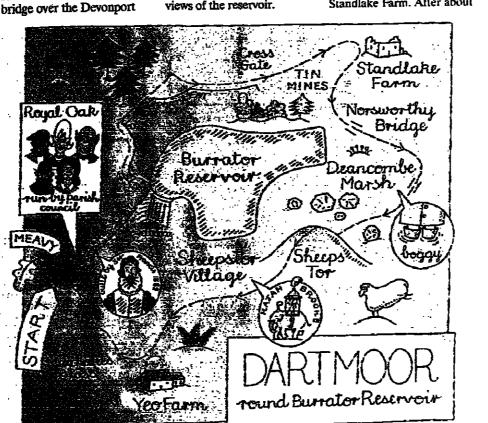
Cross", which soon left the minor road opposite Sheepstor Church and led through the woods to Yeo Farm, at the foot of the hill, and thence by a track to the ancient Marchant's Cross Meavy and the car were just

path marked "Marchant's

town, and a café, half-an-hour away. We arrived just in time for tea.

Length: About eight miles (shorter if wished)

Map: Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure,



THE INDEPENDENT HAWAII...Paradise from £749

half-a-mile further on; Prince-

Stay an extra week for only £125 Stop off in San Francisco, Los Angeles or Las Vegas for 2 nights for only £99 What price paradise? Less than you could possibly imagine on this incredible value holiday.

You'll stay in the famous resort of Walkiki on the island of Oahu. There are so many exciting things to see and do - laze on the legendary two and a half mile long beach, visit Pearl Harbour, Sea Life Park, the extinct volcano Diamond Head, the Polynesian Cultural Centre, perhaps spend a day in the dazzling capital of Honolulu.

For watersports enthusiasts there's surfing, sailing and scale diving and the restaurants, shopping and nightlife are fantastic. In short, there's something for everyone. You stay in the Outrigger Maile Sky Court Hotel. Facilities include pool, whirlpool spa, coffee shop, cocktail lounge and TGI Friday's restaurant.

Included in the price from only £749 o nights' accommodation sharing a twin room with private facilities Scheduled flights to Honolulu

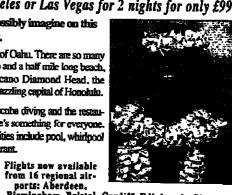
Traditional Lei greeting Holiday Delay Insurance Airport taxes, security charges and Air Passenger

* Services of a Page & Moy local rep Airport/hotel transfers FOR FULL DETAILS AND A BOOKING FORM

Complete the coupon in block capitals and send to: The Independent, Hawaii Holiday, Page & Moy Ltd., 136-140 London Road, Leicester LE2 1EN. Or call the HOLDAY BROCHURE HOTLINE ON

0116 250 7676 and quote ref:FQ0001

(24hrs answerphone). This holiday is operated by Page & Moy Ltd. ABTA V6345 ATOL 133 Roy or England 199696" Newspaper Pathinholog Roy Office 1 Catalla Square Casan' What I, Louise E14 SDI



Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds/Bradford, Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle, Norwich, Hamberside, Southampton, Stansted, East Midlands, Sheffield and London Heathrow

SEND TO: The Independent, Hawaii Holiday, Page & Moy Ltd., 136-140 London Road, Leicester LE2 1EN.

Ref.F00001					
Name	- 				
Address					
	Postcode				
Phone/Day)	G				

n futher

a decertification

ST THE CASE

WI BEET STATE

wite fair. ".

kn.

and the Proof.

to the free

Emeraid green, whee cross areas and severes, surpeu se 04 WESLEY'S LAD (IRE) (30) (Bran Williams) D. Burchell 4 10 6 Red and dark green stripes, white sleenes, and cap

= 11 declared =

-11 declared

Port Buckley, a numer at Ascot on his second hundes stant, could well be up to this task with the stable back in great form. Another of interest is Hennetta Kriight's Sydney Twothousand, who was beaten only a neck by Boro Bow at Gowran Park a year ago. He is the type to relist this staying trip and the stables horses go well when tresh EASBY JOK. ER, a decent cheser over this trip, was good enough to win over hundes at Ayr on Box. If was a weak race, but Easby Joker is in good heart and can defy the penalty with his fitness advantage.

2.05 ROGER ASTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) E5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,599

1.05 'HOOPS' LAURENT PERRIER LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m Penalty Value £4,947

- 10 declared Microum weight: 10st 7th Time handcap weights, A NC Express 10st 6th, Bear Clew 10st 6th
BETTING: 15-8 Sail By The Stars, 9-2 A N C Express, 6-1 Parsona Boy, 10-1 Hascham Boy, 12-1
Obox, Around The Gale, Bear Clew, 14-1 Lance Armstrong, Bally Clover, 20-1 Commercial Artist
1937 Meeting abandoned due to store and frost

FORM GUIDE

A true stayer is wanted for this slog through the mud and Tim Forster has the right type in SAIL BY THE STARS Smart over hundles and a writter on her chasing debut at Windson, the mare is set for another good season judged on her efforts here and at Lingfield. With just three below her in the weights. Sail By The Stars has a banker look with the ground so much in her layour. SAIL BY THE STARS. FORM GUIDE

 Memory by the Service Service of Service Service of Service Service Service Service Service Service of Service Se Dana O'Nell 3 E - 9 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Speedy Classic. 4-1 Palacegate Touch, 9-2 Tertium, 5-1 Barbason, 11-2 Hatt Tone 10-1 Taliwind, 12-1 Mr Majica, 14-1 The Wyandotte Inn, 25-1 Diesel Dan PORM GUIDE

SPEEDY CLASSIC tailed by a head to peg back Apollo Red in a sax-furlong handicap on his latessl run on 29 November and can go one better despite never having won off such a high mark Apollo Red boosted that form by beating Palacegate Touch a length here isfi (ast month with Half Tone so it. Half Tone has been steadily corring to harrid and found only Pagebby too good here (eff on New Year a Day He has yet to win beyond five furlongs, though Barbeson has not been running badly and had Mr Majlica betted when lifth to Banzhaf last time but he is still paying the penalty for his successful spell early last year Terdium has won just twice from numerous corrings, but he has plenty of ability and is one to note on this debut for Gay Kelleway and first run on Equirack. Tailwind has dropped to a good mark, while The Wyandotta Inn should have been refreshed by a break since August.

Selection: SPEEDY CLASSIC LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) (Div II) \$7,000 added 71 Penalty Fate of the favourites: 2 2433- BANZHAF (22) (CD) (SYGN 19870) G L MODE 9 N U 5020- BILLE RIYER (97) (CD) (6 Scor) R Ingram 5 9 R 3006- VICTORY TEAM (22) (C) (D) (F J Laveley G Sadring 6 9 5 4038- SCISSOR RIGGE (15) (CD) (R Oracid J Synth J Endger 6 8 G 5009- REDOURTABLE (8) (D) (Donald J Synth J Endger 6 8 G Wirmer's place in betting: 2 Starting-prices: S Dates Winning weighte: Winner's age: Profit or loss to £1 stake: Fav Percentage of winners placed BETTING: 11-4 Recioubtable, 4-1 Banzhal, 6-1 Scissor Rudge, Ivor's Deed, Stoppes Brow, 7-1 Delta Shortest-priced witmers: Chat Longest-priced winner: Antonio Top trainers: No trainer has wor Top tockey: No tockey has won FRENCH HOLLY, unbeaten over timber can carry on the good work. Laredo landed bumpers on his single start last leim and on his reappearance and went in over timber at Market Rasen, following up at Herstord Lord Jim has scored at Chepstow and Chelyenham and is no worse off with Easy Feelin, who was third to him at Prestbury Park, Londott The Ring, after a seven-length Windsor victory, beat Arctic Camper a couple of lengths at Uttoxeter but the latter, although 5to worse off here, was backward then and might improve enough to turn the form around. 2.45 NEWBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,726 3.15 JOHN KERMODE 60TH BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £4,033 .G Bradle C Liewet - 11 declared BETTING: 5-2 Belmorbruno, 100-30 Fujiyama Crest, 4-1 Ivor's Fluder, 7-1 Brackenheath, 10-1 Ivory
Coaster, 16-1 Berbary Falcon, 33-1 others 3.45 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' OPEN NH FLAT RACE £1,550 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,364 C - Cost H - Witem Hit L - Ledondes T - Tate

PUNTERS' GUIDE

1.15: NAHRAWALI ran his best race yet when second to Major Jamie in the competitive William Hill Handican Hurdle at Sandown last time. He is unproven on this ground, though, and Bellator, not fully fit when down the field in the Sandown race, is an alternative.

1.45: RIVER MANDATE goes well on soft and looks back to form now that blinkers have been dispensed with. Top Javalin is the threat

2.15: FRENCH HOLLY won easily on soft last time and looks like a top-class recruit to hurdling. UTTOXETER (on BBCI

if Newbury is abandoned) 1.05: SAIL BY THE STARS, who trotted up by six lengths over 3th at Lingfield on his most recent start, goes well in the mud and looks the pick of the weights.

1.35: SYDNEY TWOTHOUSAND, who showed plenty of promise on his only start over hurdles in Ireland, should be up to winning this. Easby Joker, with the crack claiming jockey Seamus Durack in the saddle, looks the danger.

2.05: WISLEY WONDER, who refused on his last start over fences, has schooled well at home since and, with his yard having turned the corner with a vengeance, is worth one last chance. Bramblehill Chief may be the danger.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

wiston-Da jability ab

TE Y

. 44

_ = 1 € 18 See See See

in part will

- 2004

744

-

-17. ym. 🍇 🎉

.....

N RI

EDMO

- ---

11 #1. A

- 5

· 🗷 🌬

, 🛰 🝱

-

بر. هند دورس

ه∕هند يسخ

Section Descripts

Address about his

627d (874.3.74)

there is at the

STATE VEL A

A SECRETAR OF

in security is ec

100 100 F. Tark

(G-1)

14 6 CT

17.50

AB his results

ette heeda

LINGFIELD

- 1.40: FRIENDLY BRAVE, in good form and still on a reasonable handicap mark, should be hard to beat. Our Shadee may be the danger. $\Box\Box\Box$

2.10: SUPERLAO, lemently treated on his best form, has a handy low draw and should go close. Sharp Imp, who acts well-on Equitrack, may pose most problems.

2.48: PRINCE DANZIG, who starts the year on a fair bandicap mark, will not be far away in an open race. Squire's Occasion may prove the most potent threat.

3.10: PALACEGATE TOUCH, a course-and-distance winner who is in great form at present, will take some stopping. Tertium, well handicapped on his turf form, may be the main rival.

NAAS

2.20: MANHATTAN CASTLE disappointing over hurdles last time but previously a head second to Arctic Weather in the 2m If Grade Three Fortria Handicap Chase at Navan, can make the most of the 32lb he receives from Dorans Pride, who will find this distance on the short side.

	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
the favourites:	2	1_	2_	1	1_	1	F	1/5/U	Α	A
's place in bettle	ng: 2	1	2	1	1	1	0	1C	Α	A
-prices:	7-2	11-10	3-1	4-5	1-2	9-4	25-1	4-1	A	Α
g weights:	11.3	11,10	105	11.2	1110	120	71 1	10.8	Α	A
's ege:	8	8	7	6	7	8	6	8	A	A
r loss to £1 stai	ce: Fav	ourite	3 +£	2.32 \$	Secon	d Pan	ourite	+ 33	50	
tage of winners	placed	1 1 5 t, 2	and o	r 3rd	in las	TROS	: 88%			
st-priced where	s: Chai	am (15	X92) 1	-2						
t-priced winner.	Antoni	n (199	4) 25-	-1						
Iners: No trainer	has wo	n this	race	more 1	then c	ince ir	n the p	ast 10	year:	5
key: No tockey h	105 WY	this r	асе п	nore ti	men or	nce in	the pa	est 10 -	/GEIS	

FIRST SHOW

Night City (Lingfield, 2.40), an in-form horse who is proven on the all-weather surface, is available at 9-2 with Coral - the Tote offer just 100-30.

Toujours Riviera, who is also in good heart, can be backed at 7-1 with Ladbrokes - Coral and William Hill are offering just 5-1.

Wottashambles, who has been running over hurdles, is 12-1 with the Tote - Coral and Ladbrokes go 8-1.

7-2 Banzhaf, Redoubteble, 5-1 Scissor Ridge 11-2 Ivor's Deed, 7-1 Delta Solief, Stoppes – Ian Davies

Lingfield — 3.10								
Horse	c	н	L	T_				
Palacegala Touch	7-2	4-1	7-2	4-1				
Barbason	4-1	92	7.2	10-3				
Speady Classic	9-2	41	72	4-1				
Tecium	52	92	92	5-1				
Half Tone	5-1	92	6-1	6-1				
Mr Majica	<u>9-1</u>	10-1	12-1	9-1				
Tellegisci	12-1	11-1	12-1	10-1				
The Wyandotte Inc	20-1	14-1	20-1	14-1				
Diesel Dan	20-i	25-1	25-1	25-1				
Each way a 50th the colors, places 1, 2, 3								

Lingfield — 2.40							
lorae	C	H	L				
Night City	9-2	7-2_	41	10-3			
Manayar Severan	n 6-1	8 <u>-1</u>	5-1	<u>5-1</u>			
Goliet Anch	132	6-1	5-1_	7-1			
Soulours Filwlera	5-1	5-1	<u>7-1</u>	11-2			
Selberry	13-2	7-1	. 7-1	8-1			
Sea Demzig	9-1	10-1	10-1	8-1			
Premier Dance	12-1	11-1	124	10-1			
Vojtani ambijes	8-1	10-1	6 -7	12-1			
Prince Danzig	14-1	1)-1	12:1	2-1			
Fabulous Militio	14-1	16-1	16-1	16-1			
Squire's Occasion	21	16-1	14-1	16 <u>-1</u>			
Each way, a S	th the o	放, pb	285 7, 2,	3			
C - Coral H - Walla	m HQ L	- Lectro	des, T	- Today			

51 7-1 15-2 8-1 8-1	H 5-1 3-2 7-1 7-1 13-2	13-2 13-2 13-2 13-2 7-1 13-2
7-1 15-2 8-1 8-1	7-1 7-1	13-2 13-2 7-1
15-2 8-1 8-1	7-1 7-1	13-2 7-1
8-1 8-1	7-1	7-1
8-1		
	13-2	13.2
6.1		
<u> </u>	7-1	8-1
11-1	10-1	9-1
1[-1	12-1	11-1
14-1	14-1	71-1
16-1	14-1	16-1
14-1	14-1	16-1
20-1	20-1	20-1
18-1	20-1	20-1
25-1	25-1	25-1
r ine od	ids, pieces 1,	2,3
	14-1 16-1 14-1 20-1 18-1 25-1	14-1 14-1 18-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 20-1 20-1 18-1 20-1

Testinated 12-1 17-1 12-1 10-1	Suriley Bay 14-1 14-1 16-1					
	Credo ls King 20-1 20-1 20-1					
	Sister Stephenie 16-1 20-1 20-1					
Diesel Dient 30:1 25-1 25-1 25-1	Have To Think 25-1 25-1 25-1					
Each way, a fifth the colds, places 1, 2, 3 Each way, a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 3						
C - Cost H - William Hill, L - Ladbrokes, T - Tote	C-Coral, H-William Hil, T-Tote					
2 P13-20 MANHATTAN CASTLE (35) (D) (P F 3 113-0 DUN BELLE (14) (Mrs A Cornolly P 4 39-0P1 MACALLISTER (7) Mrs M T Qurm) 5 2F0010 NEW CO (7) (Exors of the lass Mrs L	ASE £8,000 added C4 480 R Domeody pt M Hourigan 9 20 R Domeody pt Ty Treacy Party 9 97 G Cottor // Bovens 8 97 B Bovens (3) C Fonan M Morrs 10 97 M Meguire (5) McMarbon) Miss A McMarton 18 97 K P Gaule					

RACING RESULTS

8ci 90, Macalister 7st 50. BET DNG: 1-3 Dorang Pride, 4-1 Marristitan Castle, 5-1 New Co., 8-1 Second Schedust, 16-1 Do Belle, 25-1 Macellister

12.40: 1. ROEBO (P Aiven) 4-6 fav; 2. San Francisco 11-4; 3. Judebox Jive 9-2 3 ran. 16 dist (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Totar £140 DF: £340 CSF: £241 NP: Stakes Casinos Boy. 1.10: 1. JYMJAM JOHNNY (P Niveri) 7-4 1.10:1.../YMJAM JOHRNY (P Neer) 7-4 it tay; 2. Rachael's Owen 9-2; 3. Cuthill Hope 7-4 if fex. 7 ren. 11/s, 28. (J J O'Neel Hope 7-4 if fex. 7 ren. 11/s, 28. (J J O'Neel CSF: £2.52 NR. Arctic Sandy.
1.40:1...SWEEP GENTLY (Florand Guest) evens fay; 2. Buebhall Mor 33-1; 3. To-Day To-Day 9-4. 8 ren. 3, Ind. (Mrs S Smith, Bingley) Tota: £2:0; £160; £3:00, £3:00, £3:00 DF: £78:50, £5: £73:77.
2.10:1. COOU! LANE (D Parker) 7-2; 2. Beactly Head 3-1 fay; 3. Mr Knitwit 8-1 6 ran. 14, 24. (J Dun Henot) Tota: £4:50; £15:00, £2:00, DF: £4:40, CSF: £2:63, Only three finished.

EZEL DF: 24-44 CSF: 1 LEDE CHY BEACH : Instead : 1. CASH BOX (N Smith) 7-4 it fav; 2. Diddy Rymer 7-4 it fav; 3. Linisativen 3-1. 4 ran. 8, dist. (T Can, Salthum-by-Sea). Totes 22-70. DF: 52-70. CSF: 53-01. 3.10: 1. SUNNY LETTH (A Dobbin) 6-1; 2. Kodlaw 8-1; 3. Cottstown Boy 8-1, 7 ran. 5-2 fav King Of The Boxen (68). 7: 4/6 P Kinsteith, Rosewell). Tote: 5560; 52-20. 63-30. DF: 577-30. CSF: £43-47. Titcast: £3-47.72. NF: The STN Patter. 217-40 CSF: 14-34- Incasts towns 12-1 fee; 2. Parlah 4-1; 3. Common Sound 8-4, 6 ran. 1, 14, (P Morteith, Rosewell, Tota: \$220; \$180, \$170, DF: \$5.30 CSF: \$908. Placepot: \$14800, \$(0.astpot: \$90.40, Place 6: \$28007, Place 5: \$48.5.

SOUTHWELL SOUTHWELL

12.00: 1. JIBERBEN (Miss I Foustok) 5-1;
2. Time Of Night 3-1; 3. Ring The Chief
11-1 10 ran. 5-2 fav Shontaine (Sth). 174, 7;
(P Howing, Godzhinna), Tota: 55-75; E20.
2160: 2360 DF: 218,71 CSF; \$19,74 Treast:
215330, Trio: \$2440,
12.30: 1, URSA MALIOR (M Firmer) 15-1;
2. Ysoman Officer 100.30; 3. Joseph's Wine
10-11 fax. 10 ran. 4, nt. (A Kolfanty, New-marker), Tota: \$2250; \$340, \$140, \$150, DF;
\$42.20, CSF: \$2842, Trio: \$3190, NR: Lady
Kornante.

Komarte. 1.00: 1. MUARA BAY (Miss E Ramaden) 9-4 iav; 2. Benjamine Law 8-1; 3. Don't Drop Bombs 9-2 9 ran. 2, 11/4, (G Lewis, Epsom). Tota: £310; £130, £170, £180, DF, £2070, CSF

1.30: 1. PLAN FOR PROFIT (Deen Mc
OWN) 5-4 law; 2. Rambo Watzur 3-1: 3. Pin
Ridge Lad 100-30 9 ran. 4, 1/a. (M Johnsto
Meddleham). Tota: £300; £110, £150, £17
DF: £510. CSF: £5.78. Trio: £2.10. NR: Get
uine John.
2.00: 1. PIP'S ADDITION (T Sprate) 4
2. I'm Tef 7-4 fav; 3. Happy Wanderer 11-
13 ram, Shi-hd, 1%, (J Glover, Wongson), Tot
2500; \$120, \$130, \$210, DF; \$100, CS
£10.82. Tricast: £36.87
2.30: 1. JULIES JEWEL (FNorton) 10-
2. Just Another Time 5-2 fav: 3. Penniles
6-1. 11 ran. 1/2, 11/4. (M Chanman, Mark
Rasen). Toba: £790: £210. £160 £140. D
£1330 CSF: £3400 Tricast: £16080 Tri
£49.20
3.00: 1. REX MUNDI (A McCarthy) 11-
tev, 2. Pickens 4 1: 3. Head Gardener 8
12 ran. 2 6 (P Evans, Wetshpool). Tot
\$240; \$100 \$180 \$270 DF: \$470 CSF: \$87
Tirlo: SB.30. NR: Awateh.
3.30: 1. RONQUISTA D'OR (S Drown
7-1; 2. Dalwhamle 11-1; 3. Friendly Knigh
8-1. 15 ram. 7-2 fav Skiney The Kidney (5th 11, 2. (G Harn, Axbridge). Tote: £710; £20
12.60, 12.80, DF: 265.70, CSF: 286.51, Tr
ast: £61031 Tho; £14770
Placepot: £7190 Quadpot: £2.40.
Place 6: 08.25. Place 5: 52.40.

THE INDE	PENI	DENT
RACING :	SERV	ICES
0891	26	1 +
LIVE COMMEN	TARIES	RESULTS
NEWBURY	971	981
UTTOXETER	972	982_
MUSSELBURGH	973	983_
LINGFIELD	974	984
ALL COURS 0891 2	es resi 61 9	70
Calls cost 50p per painete. 'L	الله Screen عام کا	2 F(ZA-47)

Newhury abandoned (waterlogged).

حكنا من الاحل

— 16 declared — BETTING: 11-4 Asi El Asi, 3-1 Bold Acre, 4-1 Sylvan Sabre, 7-1 Cromeboo Crows, 8-1 Yest Metch, 12-1 Exclusion, Khazari, 14-1 Lady Silk, Bonry, 16-1 Cool Weather, Mailhabad, Square Deal, 20-1 others

3.05 BRAKE BROS. FOOD SERVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,736

3.35 MEAT AND TWO VEG HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) \$5,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value \$3,778

- 8 decl SETTING: 11-4 Tampeton, 7-2 Paramery Pets, 11-2 Winsta Price, 5-1 Rayale Angels. 7-1 Native Field, 9-1 Prussia, 12-1 Castle Secret, 14-1 What's Your Story

— 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — — 9 declared — 9 decla

tor best be ther likely t

470 (1200)

7.0

.

100

7. • •

4767_{4 1.4}

4.

.

. . .

i.

77

TO STATE . v . 🖘 🛊

, term

1 . A. . A.

- 34

- -State State

A CHARD

HER YES

Litting.

إندووا

7.5

- 47.

State of Parks

TO SEE A

Contract of the

- 7- 1120

* ** ** AND

774 **6** 5

FF . J. alto 1 34

4 114

-- BH #

1.9

NS Ger

15/SPORT

NGFILLO ADLY BRAVE TO DOG don't receive the first. should be suitable best a may be to denger

and the house . Who are not a ke $f(D(m,m)) = -\frac{1}{m_{\rm total}}$ NCE DANZIE who State of the state not be the market Squire's Occasion may Ref P ACEGATIC POLICE

lidetate a stoken

The distance of n ins mer e-1441 HATTANI ASHLE gawar huru. rusiy . Typu ather of the 15 of mamia Mar 2 - - - in make to ... - ... sectors to the florage av will little to the second

10-YEAR-TALE 34 25 <u>u</u>; -d Favourites

OF LOUIS

inglield — 140

wbury - 1.45

AND PARTY AND PA

(NO *--

ACING EPI WALK! muit WIEL." NI ST

of ability above question **Nigel Twiston-Davies** does not shout about his successes and certainly does not need to at the moment as his results $RL_{AO_{\ell}}|_{\tau \cap \{\ell \in \mathcal{P}_{\ell}\}_{\ell \in \mathcal{C}_{CL}}}$ and form has a bound speak for themselves. A remarkable sequence of wins over the holiday period has re-established

of trainers.

When he sees a reporter's notebook or a microphone produced under his nose Nigel Twiston-Davies reacts as if he's come across some toxic waste. If you ask the trainer why he doesn't speak to the press he's more than likely to ignore you.

Twiston-Davies himself. however, cannot be ignored at the moment. On the morning of Boxing Day he was 19th in the trainers' championship with eight winners for the season, a six per cent strike-rate and £86,000 in earnings. His Cheltenham stable had been morning he had leaped to sixth, Earth Summit had collected a Welsh National, Kerawi the Christmas Hurdle and Thursday

had yielded a hat-trick. At times

like this racing editors ask their

men to have another go at se-

curing an audience. My trump card here was Peter Scudamore, the former champion jumps jockey and assistant to Twiston-Davies. For reasons known exclusively to himself, Scu talks to me. "Whatever you do don't ring Nigel," Scu said. "Take him out to lunch." I thought this was a bit of an insult to a reporter of 20 years standing used to Davies's body is attempting to wheedling out words on the tele-escape from its clothing and you

Bellator best bet but

want to talk to me on his land, or anyone else's for that matter. "I don't do interviews," he said. who are probably very good at "But I will answer a few questions if you like." This raised an interesting distinction.

While Eton might be fa-

mous for producing young men

flipping a pancake through 180

degrees, Twiston-Davies is a

product of Radley, the trainer

and manner lead many to mis-

diagnose him. "The persona

things," Scudamore said. "The

"We've got an owner here

that he's not approachable.

son you would imagine having

a horse with a double-barrelled

public schoolboy. When you see

this ex-Radley schoolboy who

doesn't talk to the press it

rather creates the image of an

unapproachable figure out of

touch with the common

man, which is very much the

from Grange Hill Farm at

Naunton, Gloucestershire,

since 1981, Twiston-Davies's

operation has only really

swollen since Scudamore

became his assistant on retire-

ment in the spring of 1993. The

talk at the time was that Scu had

been smuggling home secrets

from Martin Pipe's yard in his

lunch box. It is an allegation that

this season with more than 80

horses. "We're one of the big-

ger yards in terms of numbers

but we haven't got that many ex-

pensive horses," Twiston-Davies

said. "The majority of our own-

ers come to us as opposed to us

searching around London or

wherever for them. We're not

very good at the PR side and

most of our horses are from lo-

Grange Hill Farm started

neither man denies.

Though he has trained

opposite of what he is."

Twiston-Davies a trainer

Twiston-Davies is not rude factory. His name, upbringing about any of this and it's not that he's shy. He just doesn't want to make a charlie of himself on most people have of him and the record. "I don't give myself the ' reality are two totally different him among the top flight chance to say something silly and see it in the newspapers the general impression seems to be following day," he said. "Some trainers don't come over too well on the television and say called Fred Mills, who's from things that they regret after- Essex and not the sort of perwards. I prefer to let the horses do the talking."

This information blackout means that little is known about the secretive life of the Twiston-Davies. He is rather like one of those brightly spangled butter-

BY RICHARD **EDMONDSON**

wreathed with virus. By this flies that exist uniquely in Sumatra. But if you wait long enough by the watering hole that is Th' Hollow Bottom in Guiting Power you can catch a glimpse of this easily startled creature. It will either have a lager or gin and soda in its hand.

Indeed, one of the disappointments of Nigel's press reclusion is that he appears like a bloke who might be good company. His face looks as though it has been dipped in a barrel of beetroot and his 40year-old physique has obviously collided with a few parties. At the races, it always ap-

pears as though Twistonphone. But then Scu was right. have to stop yourself trying to Nigel Twiston-Davies is a undo his top button. He demonconversational Scrooge and strates that he is not going to be speaking to him is like trying to fooled by fashion gurus by wearget blood out of a hundred- ing something dangerously close weight. Nigel said he didn't to Paddington's duffel coat.

wrong with it." He won't admit this, but



Twiston-Davies: more party casualty than fashion victim Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

old Twiston-Davies is, in fact, a bit of a worrier. Last week's salvo was deeply important to him. "It was very good for everyone's morale: for the yard. the owners, everybody," he admitted. "And for my temper, according to my wife."

cal people, who possibly haven't got as much money as others. Scudamore goes further. "Perhaps I'm happier deal-You can't overestimate the iming with that sort of horse, that portance of that weekend." he said. "Nigel definitely felt the it's not the end of the world should something happen to go pressure during our had run. And he may not look like that type of person, but before big

races he does worry about things. "He's very good with people. He's open and he wears his heart on his sleeve a bit. He does get wound up.

"Only about a third of horses ever win a race, so most of the time you're letting people down and that's quite hard. You're always ringing up friends and telling them their horse has got a cough or a leg and that's very difficult. That sort of pressure gets to Nigel."

Twiston-Davies can afford to lot of that at his yard.

and jumping even better, thanks largely to the specialist input of Ginny Elliot, the former world: champion eventer. Wisley Wonder, in particular, has shown improvement in his schooling recently and is considered the : silver medal." yard's best hope at Uttoxeter asked the question. They do a : titude of New Mexico.

relax a little now, though. The

Paddock: Unlike the chancers - running plans at 3.00 in the - actually manage to place a bet,

in judging a horse as it is in none at all - but fortunately for the people who run bloodstock auctions, this information has yet to filter through to the ranks of obscenely wealthy owners who keep them in business. Nor, for that matter, has any serious appreciation of genetics impressed itself on the well-paid "pedigree experts" who advise them - or if it has, they are keeping very quiet about it. The problem for anyone trying to breed a winner is that a horse's genetic "program" includes tens of thousands of different genes, many of which will exert at least some effect on its racing ability. No one, though, knows preeisely which ones, how closely they are linked to others, or their relative importance, and while a champion racehorse has clearly done pretty well in the genetic lottery, there is no way of knowing the extent to which its ability will be passed on to any particular foal. In other words, the entire business of selling untried racehorses runs on little more than guesswork and blagging, Longchamp for the Arc in Oc- and a good thing too, otherwise we might not have enjoyed the marvellous spectacle of Sheikh Mohammed spending \$10.2m on Snaafi Dancer, who was too slow to race and. dow at the other. In the un- better still, impotent when he

Durham can be stepping stone for Radcliffe

Many have been called but two too few have chosen to run in today's international crosscountry event at Durham. But the fields remain stronger, Mike Rowbottom reports

Britain's top cross-country exponents, Paula Radcliffe and Jon Brown, return to domestic action at today's Durham international event seeking to establish their credentials as potential medallists this sea-

Radcliffe, second in last vear's World Championships, is chasing a third victory in this event. The British 5,000 metres record holder feels she can strike gold in either the Commonwealth Games or European Championships this season.

"Winning is important for me, but I also have to look to the long term," said Radcliffe, who has missed the Durham race only once since the lAAF World Cross Challenge event began in 1988.

Radcliffe's outstanding performance at the World Championships in Turin, where she missed adding the senior title to the junior version she earned in 1992 by a matter of a few yards, has seen her become far more horses are running beautifully | particular about her racing calendar.

> "For that event I got my preparations absolutely right," she said. "I restricted my competitive programme, went to aititude training, then won a

After Durham, she will comthis afternoon. Last time, at pete in Belfast on 24 January Wincanton's final obstacle, the | and Tourcoing in France a week seven-year-old refused when; later before training in the al-

> Her task today on a tough. undulating course overlooking Durham cathedral will be far from straightforward.

She faces the world 10,000 na McKiernan, the highly experienced Irishwoman who has won a four world crosscountry silver medals and will make her domestic marathon ter becoming the fastest anywhere else."

woman debutant at the event in October.

A further challenge on a mud-bound course could come from Irina Mikitenko, of Khazakstan, who is now based in Germany.

"There's no way I'll be underestimating anybody," Rad-cliffe said, "Barsosio can be indifferent, but McKiernan's past record is proof of her ability, whatever the conditions."

Brown, who chose not to defend his European title last month, has always planned to include Durham in his schedule - but the same cannot be said for the leading names the organisers have attempted to bring to the field.

Earlier this week Kenya's world 3,000m steeplechase champion, Wilson Boit Kipketer, rendered himself ineligible after failing to pick up a visa that had been made ready for him at the British Embassy in Nairobi.

And yesterday it was confirmed that the man who was to have taken Kipketer's place, the former world champion Khalid Skah, had withdrawn at the orders of his national federation.

Thomas Nyariki, Kenya's world bronze medallist, will now provide the main test to the Vancouver-based Brown, who will be running in Sheffield's colours. He will also be challenged by fellow Briton Keith Cullen.

"You have got to expect the unexpected in this game," said a race organiser - rather politely in the circumstances. Skah was ordered home by

the Moroccan Athletic Federation, who host this year's World Championships in March. The Moroccans are keen to end Kenya's domination of the event and want Skah, who lives in Paris, to prepare along with his team-mates.

The Moroccan has twice been the individual crosscountry world champion, winning the event in 1990 and '91.

The Durham race organiser, metres champion, Sally Bar- Nigel Gough, said: "Khalid is sosio of Kenva, and Catheri- extremely upset at what is going on and, as a senior international athlete and former Olympic 10,000 metres champion, he just cannot understand why he's being told that debut in London this spring af- he cannot race in Durham or

weather likely to win Bell, Ladbrokes managing di-The elements will decide rector, served up on Thursday. "There are still plenty of options when all the independent book-

today's course of action for armchair punters. Greg Wood on a valuable card hanging in the balance.

Officially the going at Newbury yesterday was supposed to be soft with heavy patches. Unofficially, it was wet enough to skim pebbles on the home straight after an overnight downpour, and the card planned for yesterday was immediately abandoned. Worse still, more rain is expected, and today's Mandarin Chase meeting may well go the same way.

If the meeting survives a 7.30am inspection, racegoers will have nine races to keep them warm, with two of yesterday's events being held over to today. If it fails the test, the BBC will cover three races from Uttoxeter. while on Channel 4 we have Dorans Pride in action at Naas and the dubious delights of Lingfield's all-weather Flat card.

In fact, punters should not have anything to do with the latter meeting, for no other reason that that the card is sponsored by Ladbrokes, who swallowed up Coral earlier this week and then had the cheek to claim that punters would be better served as a result. There are a total of 1.64 horses entered to run at Lingfield today, enough to produce an impressive amount of On his earlier winning form, he mamme, but still nothing to compare to the pile which Chris

makers are taken into account," Bell was quoted as saying. Whether or not he did so with a straight face went unrecorded.

Lingfield is, in any case, a very trappy card, whereas if Newbury goes ahead both the Mandarin Chase and Challow Hurdle are fascinating heats.

Ability to act in the mud is essential and there are several runners with just such an affinity in the Mandarin. However. one of them is Sister Stephanie.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Wisley Wonder (Uttoxeter 2.05) NB: General Pongo (Newbury 1.45)

The Challow Hurdle brings together some of the most promising young hurdlers in the country. French Holly will be hard to beat, but Laredo (next best 2.15), the latest potential star from Noel Chance's yard, could provide a little value.

whose attitude deteriorates by the race, which leaves River Mandate and ANC Express (1.45) to consider. The latter is the better bet as he may be open to rather more improvement.

BELLATOR (1.15) is a difficult horse to train but ran well for a long way in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown.



WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

P is for . . .

Pace: A vital consideration

when deciding whether or not the form of a race is likely to work out. If the runners are strung out like clothes on a line within a few moments of the start, it is a fair assumption that the pace is a good one, and quite simply. the better the pace, the firmer the form. A horse which emerges an easy winner in a fast-run race has almost certainly put up a performance of real merit, while at the other end of the scale, form recorded in a slowly-run race must always be treated with caution. The apparently impressive winners of such events have probably gone on to pay for more tacky extensions to bookmakers' homes

rings (see Pedigree, below). out to the ultimate test withthought which can concentrate the mind admirably. A manner should only add to close scrutiny of the form. and never replace it altogether, but once you feel that you have narrowed the field down to a handful of possibles, it never hurts to give them the once-over before placing a bet. Ideally, they should be relaxed but not dopey, shiny of coat, eve and shoe (meaning that they are wearing light racing plates rather than heavy training shoes), and with welldefined musculature, particularly around the backside. What paddock study will never tell you, however, is exactly what is going on in a horse's mind. The first punter to crack that particular puzzle will find themselves banned from every betting shop in Britain within

Paget, Dorothy: One of the most eccentric and reckless gamblers ever to enter a betting ring and the owner of Golden Miller, five times the winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Nocturnal unless she had a major meeting to attend, Paget would breakfast in the evening and retire at daybreak, often phoning her longthan any other type of horse. suffering trainers to discuss likely event that you ever arrived at stud.

who hang out at the sales morning. She would call book-remember to check both your punters who study horses in hours after the race in questhe paddock do at least know tion had taken place, and such that their judgement will be was her honesty - or perhaps the amount of red ink on her in the next 20 minutes, a balance sheet - that the bets were honoured, win or lose, Paget was, in a word, bonkers, horse's physical appearance or but she must have been doing something right, since she remains the only woman to have owned a winner of both the Derby and Grand National.

Pari-mutuel: French for the Tote, and the only way you can het on the nags (legally at least) not just in France, but in many other countries as well. This is a source of much irritation to British bookmakers, who would love nothing more than to break into the French PMU monopoly on betting and start milking the system in much the same way that they do over here. EC competition law might be expected to offer them some hope, but so far at least, the clever people who run the Société d'Encouragement (French BHB) have managed to stop them in their tracks on the British side of La Manche. The only time most Brits will encounter the PMU is on their annual trip to tober, when it best described as a very long queue with frustrated punters at one end and a charmless bandit with a badge behind the scruffy win-

Pedigree: About as much use judging a person - ie, almost

BASKETBALL

Jones returns to take over at Derby as Tucker storms out

twist for Jeff Jones when he re- rewarded with just three gained his coaching post with the Budweiser League club Derby Storm, who had replaced him last summer with an American. Steve Tucker.

"I know they are talking to other people, but it will be fun helping out for the foreseeable future." said Jones, a 43-yearold naturalised American who made his debut for Manchester Giants 21 years ago and played 16 times for England.

Tucker made a noisy exit this week, complaining of players and coaches with "out of control egos" and airing the widely held view that the Basketball League does not implement its own salary cap.

But Tucker's retreat to Mississippi to rehabilitate from the after-effects of a car crash last January follows a disastrous campaign for Derby. Their loy-

The new year took a surprising al and partisan fans have been League victories, two of those against winless Watford Royals. Jones said: "There is talent

here but the players' confidence is shot to pieces, especially after losing five games in overtime. I watched them play a few times and there wasn't a lot of structure on court." Derby's opponents tonight

are Chester Jets, whose coach, Mike Burton, brings his continuing injury problems to the Moorways Leisure Centre. Brian Lloyd may return, but fellow Americans Ricardo Leonard and Sean Bell are out with knee injuries.

Thames Valley Tigers face all of their challengers for the League title this month and open a testing schedule at home to London Towers and away to Sheffield Sharks tomorrow. - Richard Taylor

GOLF

Montgomerie's bogeyman

To land one of the two biggest started what until then had prizes in golf, Colin Mont- been a disappointing season and gomerie first has to beat the he went on, of course, to be South African Ernie Els, the crowned Europe's No 1 for a player who has twice denied him the US Open. The pair meet in today's semi-finals of the An- jor, Els beating him by one shot dersen Consulting World Match in Washington to bring back Play Championship in Scotts- memories of Montgomerie's dale, Arizona, with the winner then facing either the US PGA champion Davis Love or Hajime Meshiai, of Japan, in tomorrow's final.

the final four by winning the European qualifier last May, defeating Jose Maria Olazabal, Sam Torrance and Costantino at The Buckinghamshire kick-come.

record fifth successive time. But still he did not win a maplay-off defeat in Pittsburgh three years earlier. The two met again during

the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews in October and the did not have to go to extra holes because South Africa had qualified for the semi-finals. "We'll carry this one on to Phoenix,"

MUSSELBURGH

HYPERION 12.25 Big Target 12.55 Its Grand 1.25 Eden Dancer 1.55 Best Of All 2.25 My Shenandoah 2.55 Linden's Lotto 3.25 Three Franks

CORNE: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand ovel course with right turns.

Course is Sm E of Edinburgh on A1. Bus ink from Edinburgh of Course is Sm E of Edinburgh on A1. Bus ink from Edinburgh station Sm. ADMISSION: Cab Pt; Tathersalis DS (OAPs and underlying ES), Accompanied under risk from CAR PARK: Free of LEADMIST TRANSPRISE M Hammond 27-111 (243%). J H Johnson Set (1795).) P Montaith 13-98 (ET-C), Mas S Bradisman 11-97 (128%).

LEADMIST JOCKEYS: B Storay 13-18 (1755). P Nivem 12-65 (25%). A Dobbles 2-94 (123%). R Garriery 10-50 (20%).

FAVOURDTES: 106-238 (147%).

BLANCERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.25 MAC MERRY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m ___C HoComerb

is generously weighted. 10 65 BOLLERO (14) JBarry 11 0.... - 10 coraned -BETTING: 11-4 Trooper, 3-1 Lurpak Legend, 9-2 Big Target, 11-2 Bollero, 7-1 Réeds, 6 Hibennain, 14-1 Krabloonik, 25-1 Tickreima, 50-1 others

12.55 NEW YEAR CONDITIONALS SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 53,000 3m

1.25 MUSSELBURGH NEW YEAR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

- 9 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Eden Dances, 4-1 Master Bavard 9-2 Broctune Bay. 11-2 Adamatic, 8-1 Supreme Soviet, Royal Crymson, 14-1 Nooran, 25-1 Fal-con's Flame, 66-1 Political Mandate

1.55 JOINT RACE COMMITTEE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 2-200 SARMATIAN (USA) (34) (CD) F Mortagy F C 0 A Dobbin (2014) A Dobbin (2014

BETTING: 7-4 Best Of AL 3-1 Sameban, 7-2 Quango, 8-1 Contralire Political Tower, 12-1 Elpidos 2.25 BLACK BUN NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f

2.55 QUEEN'S STAND HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m

9ETTING: 6-5 Linden's Lotto, 100-30 Rustic Air, 4 D'Arblay Street, 15-2 Cats Run. 10-1 Wee Advice 'FIRST OF MANY' INTERMEDIATE OPEN 3.25 NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 2m

NEW DAWN C Thomson 4 10 1 ... O Kozzik (7)

B declared
BETTING 4-7 Castle Clear. 11-4 Three Franks, 8-1 New Dawn, 8-1 Double First, 18-1 Thortardytes Lass, 20-1 Just Hush, 40-1 others

DOUBLE FIRST W & M Tumer 4 10 1...... Power (7)

Montgomerie qualified for match ended all square. They Rocca. The Scot's performance Els said then. Now the time has



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ON FEELING Bad about The London MARATHON

When did you first feel guilty about not running the London

My initial experience of that familiar sensation occurred back in 1982, soon after the mass-participation event had taken its grip upon the nation's collective imagination.

It was a sunny March morning, and I was out running near my home. I had reached that satisfactory stage where the sweat was on me and the legs were moving without com-

An elderly runner approached. He was wearing one of those aerated shirts which resemble the section on a grater for nutmeg or carrot; and he had across his forehead a broad red sweathand.

As we drew closer I noted two further details. He was do- derogatory. As he passed, howing a funny, breathing-type thing – all rhythmic and deliberate. And he was travelling

Upping my pace, I prepared to exchange the tradi-tional greeting of those who meet in such circumstances a nod of the head, maybe a clipped "Morning."

So when he enquired: "Doing the London?" I was, as it were, caught on the wrong foot. I realised immediately what my response should be a comradely "Yep!" Or even better: "Afraid so. Westminster Bridge or bust!"

The actual response - "No" possibly lacked a little in wit. But it had an effect.

ever, he seemed to be carrying himself with just a touch more conviction, moving just a shade

I, in contrast, felt the carth tugging me down. I began to be aware of a pain in my side. I began to wonder if the section of the path I had reached was actually uphill, in real terms, even though it did not appear so. Could such a thing be possible? If all the surrounding topography, by some freak of nature, conspired to create

more easily.

Or was it simply that I was feeling inferior?

Somewhere in that sudden deflation, guilt was playing its part. Similar emotions troubled on our break, he would already strivers negotiate the long, fags, ostensibly to cheer the Marathon. Cheers.

when a colleague was preparing to run the event.

Dave Bedford, Britain's iack-the-lad world 10,000 metres record holder in the 1970s, once said the hardest part of his training was getting out of the

I always thought Bedford was making life unnecessarily difficult for himself on this count. If the front door was such a problem, why not simply use the back door in-

But no such weakness afflicted my friend, who was unwavering in his dedication to running 26 miles, 385 yards.

By the time the rest of us had sloped off to the canteen

Embankment, or Blackfriars Bridge, or however far it was he managed to get during the one-hour break, breathing in the fresh night air, at one with

himself, working towards a

With his gaunt cheeks and serious Mars bar habit - this was a man making maximum use of his time and ability. And as we sat and stuffed our faces. we all felt ... guilty.

Marathon guilt, though, occurs in its purest form on the race route itself. And the best place to observe it is the road-

The killer stretch of the London event comes at mile 16. when the 30-odd thousand

My inquisitor said nothing me a couple of years later be pounding his way along the windswept loop around the gallant foot soldiers onwards. Isle of Dogs.

There is naught for comfort here other than the occasional brass band and the ragged cheers of those who dot the

Often, you see runners reel exhaustedly from the proceedings here. Perhaps they are simply stunned by the realisation that, as the Marathon race literature points out, Canary Wharf has 4.4 million square feet of office space and is constructed with 10 different types of Italian marble.

But these individual dramas only serve to heighten the unforecourts clutching drinks and

The problem with runners is this: they make everyone else. by definition, a non-runner.

All those who stand and watch, whether they like it or not, are mutely challenged by what they witness. They tip their ash, and stare into their glasses, and mutter their traditional speaking parts: "Keep it going!" "Cheers!" "Huptwo! Hup-two!" "You're all

And the real giveaway: "I could do that." O drinkers at the Ambivalent Arms, nursing your beer and your regrets... But what has all this to do with easy feelings which nag at the New Year? Very simple. those who gather on the pub Every year, without fail, I resolve to run the next London

Eat sandwiches in Jaws while 40ft monsters spit in the background

ing signals from Internet, satellite and Hawaiian soothsayers and the No 1 wave measuring buoy off Kauai vandalised, and with the North Shore rumour factory continuing to churn out ever taller stories of giant waves just over the horizon, the arguments rage on as to the exact whereabouts

of the biggest wave. Just about all coastlines in the world have their proponents, from Fiji through Easter Island to Iceland. A passing Irishman assured me that the best break in the world is to be found in Peru, at the end of a 10-hour trek through the jungle, and the only problem is you have to be equally adept with machete and board. But, even though San Francisco (and specifically Mavericks) is avowed to have been the main beneficiary so far of El Niño, the real pulled in." debate boils down to a play-off between North Shore (Oahu) and Jaws

Jaws, formerly known as "Spot X", adjacent to primo windsurfing venue Hookipa, has only sprung to surfers I shot 12 years ago. That's prominence in this decade. Break- why they want to keep everyone else ing just a few times a year in the ex- out, so their little secret doesn't get

treme 30-40ft range, it was once considthe advent of tow-in has changed all that. Among the élite bigwave surfers, a jet ski (with a driver), a towrope and a slimmer, shorter, more manoeuvrable board, has become standard equipment. The addition of a few hundred horsepower to the usual couple of arms, sling-shotting the surfer on to the face of otherwise unmakeable waves (and then leaving him to

his own more traditional devices), has made accessible what Mark Foo called "the unridden realm". Thus Jaws has recently usurped the limelight in magazines, videos and, most recently, a glossy coffee-table book.

The advantage of Jaws over the North Shore outer-reef "cloudbreaks" is that it has a deep, tranquil channel where you can sit out beyond the shoulder and eat sandwiches while 40ft mousters are spitting in the background. But now the backlash has begun.

"Real Men Paddle In" is the explicit banner of Dan Merkel, veteran surf photographer and cameraman, the man who made John Milius's classic surf movie Big Wednesday big (mainly with footage of Pipeline and Sunset), and who has just returned to the North Shore from Jaws. With the K2 Big Wave Challenge throwing the spotlight back on traditional paddle-power, Merkel was getting a burrito at Cholo's in Haleiwa when he came out as a powerful adversary of the Maui tow-in crew. "There's eight of them. And they're afraid of a real contest. They're worried they're going to come in second. They won't be king of the hill anymore.

For the past two years, various sponsors - from Coca-Cola to Sony have been trying to set up a 30ftplus tow-in contest at Jaws, based broadly on the 20ft-plus Eddie Aikau at Waimea Bay model. But the plan has run into a lot of local opposition. The Jaws Eight have staked out the spot and tried to squeeze out any would-be claimants. as I get my big wave pictures in, I'm "They think they own the place," complains Merkel. Dave Kalama, one of the eight, has gone on record

With promising 10-15ft swells in- wave spots, and (b) the place is too creasing in frequency, with conflict- dangerous for a contest. He compares a wipe-out there to being beaten to a pulp by Bruce Lee and then finally stomped on by a Sumo wrestler for good measure. And he claims to be acting out of purely altruistic motives in blocking the

"That's all bull," said Merkel. "Tow-in has actually made surfing safer. The risk factor is reduced whether you're at Jaws or not. OK, a wipe-out is still a wipe-out. But the real danger in surfing is not from the wave you're on - it's from the wave coming up outside. If you're out of position, then the next wave is going to slam you. With tow-in, that never happens. The jetski just whips you out of there in a second. Anyone - anyone who knows what they're doing in big waves - can get

Merkel argues that the quality of surfers at Jaws is not proportionate to the quality of the wave and is actually lower than on the North Shore. "They're mostly old wind-

> Tow-in is the producing an impressive but unearned inflationary supplement. And it's true that, hanging on to the back of a Yamaha wave-runner, I was relatively happy to get in among the huge stuff, although I nearly had a heart attack when the engine stalled. I should add, to be fair, that I've also seen a tow-in guy nearly have his leg ampu-

tated after he got tan-

gled up in the tow

ANDY

MARTIN

NEWS

FROM

THE

NORTH

SHORE

rope in a big wave wipe-out. There is a suspicion that at Jaws the frenzy of publicity has gone to the surfers' heads. A fan of Laird Hamilton (another of the Eight) once said to me that "He makes Brad Pitt look like a turkey." And now Hollywood has cashed in on this photogenic quality of both wave and wave rider by producing a full-scale feature film, In God's Hands, due out early in 1998, starring Jaws and the Eight and revolving around the adventures of a tow-in crew. Merkel is predictably scathing: "It had better have some-

one who can act in it, too." But what really riled Merkel was that the Jaws Eight were demanding a percentage from photographers for taking their pictures. "I'm never going to pay anyone a cent for putting them on the cover of a magazine. Their already paying them. They ought to

be paying me." There's long been a symbiotic relationship between surfers and the photographers who immortalise their ephemeral aerials and off-the-lips. The irony is that just as the tow-in heavy mob have been seeing off potential rivals, so too Merkel - the champion of the open society where Jaws is concerned also has his own final solution to the population explosion problem among photographers: "There's way too many goofballs these days. Real Men Used to Focus. Now they're all using automatic. As soon going to send them to the magazines for free. It'll burn out the opposition. This time next year, the (in Outside magazine) as saying beach'll be empty, you'll see. I'll have that (a) this is the Everest of big the place to myself."



Day trippers: Lawrie Smith, the skipper of Silk Cut, is joined by ex-Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings on a training run in Sydney Harbour

Conner takes over as Toshiba skipper

The biggest name in ocean yacht racing has decided to show the rest how it is done in the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Dennis Conner is tired of seeing Toshiba among the also-rans, but as Stuart Alexander reports, it will take all the American's skill to make an impression on the outcome of the fourth leg from Sydney to Auckland which starts tomorrow.

Speak it softly, or the words will come back to haunt you, but, as Dennis Conner adds his presence to his Toshiba campaign, taking the helm away from Paul Standbridge, there is a pattern emerging in the Whitbread Race. If this leg hardens the trend, then the struggling syndicates are going to look more like desperate football clubs than dash-

ing ocean racers. There is not only a gap opening up between the top four and the other five boats, but also between the top two, Paul Cayard in EF Language and Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaemer, and the second pair, the quietly quick Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match, and Grant Dalton in the weather-

sensitive Merit Cup. By the time the fleet arrive in Auckland after a five-day, 1,270-mile Dickson's successor, Standbridge, is if they were doing well, nor did be unable to persuade Torben Grael to sprint from Sydney they will have covered half the total of 31,600 miles and accounted for 45 per cent of the points, which is why Conner, the fourtimes America's Cup-winner and

Olympic bronze medallist, may have thought it is time to make his move. His boat, Toshiba - in seventh place after three legs - was initially captained by the New Zealander Chris Dickson, who quit after a disappointing first leg to Cape Town full crew. He had earlier said that his helming talents. led to a falling-out with Conner. he did not want to disrupt the crew

OCEAN

Distances show nautical miles

Leg Five 6,670 miles

now listed as co-skipper.

The 55-year-old Conner, Toshiba's syndicate chairman, has mon- er, after being third on the second itored progress by computer, but no longer. A veteran of the 1993-94 race, in which he co-skippered Winston on just two legs, he kept his hands-on involvement quiet until the last moment. Under race rules, teams have up until 24 hours before the start of each leg to name their

want any move on his part seen as leg to Fremantle, Standbridge was sixth out of nine in the tight finish

to the third leg to Sydney Conner will not be the only new face aboard Toshiba now that the Australian Barney Walker, who had a disagreement with Frostad in Fremantle, has been recruited for

Whitbread Round the World Race

Frostad, meanwhile, having been

do a second leg, welcomes back to a criticism of Standbridge. Howev- Innovation, Robbie Naismith, who sailed the first leg, and another Kiwi, Tony Rae.

With two leg wins under his belt, Cayard is now the clear favourite to win the race. EF Language is a good, all-round boat, whereas, for instance, Dalton's Merit Cup is best at light to moderate off-the-wind work. Dalton has dropped the Italian Paolo Bassani and replaced him with Tom Dodson - the crew's 10th New Zealander.

The crew on board the British boat Silk Cut are determined to reach New Zealand first. "It will be quick and hopefully we will have . plenty of breeze," said their skipper. Lawrie Smith. "We have to do well - we have something to prove."

The new dark borse is George Collins' Chessie Racing, where Paul Svan Dyke replaces the injured Rick Deppe. Collins has not only persuaded John Kostecki to stay for the next leg, but will have top match racer Gavin Brady along as well. One thing is for sure, there will be no easy points waiting in,

Auckland.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (Dirid leg, 2,250 miles, Premantle to Sydney):
15F Language (Swe) P Cayard 8 days, 8r., 9min, 20sec; 2 Swedish Match (Swe) G Krantz 9:2: 12: 4 Merit Cup (Monaco) G Dation 8:9: 17:57; 5 britonation Kweener (Mort K Frostand 9:9: 12:18; 6 Teshba (US) P Standbridge 9:9:30:40; 7 Sik Cut (GE) L Smith 9:3:35:01; 8 Brunel Sumery (Neth) R Henner 9:10:00:04; 9 EF Education (Swe) C Gullou 9:10:47:32. Standbrigs: 1 EF Language 302pts; 2 hmovation Kweener 267; 3 Swedish Match 253; 4 Mertt Cup 228; 5 Chessie Racing 212; 6 Sik Cut 206; 7 Toshba 207; 8 EF Education 80; 9 Brunel Sunergy 66.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Jürgen Klinsmann, on the welcome from Spurs tans on his return to White Hart Lane.

The muscle is torn and there is a lot of swelling. It is a nightmare. All I want to do is play for Spurs and score goals. How can I do that when I am being told to do training which makes an injury worse? Les Fer- Bergkamp, of Arsenal. dinand, Spurs striker, on his injured Mrights are few and far between thigh and coach Christian Gross.

 It sent a shiver down my back.
 In England, some players booze a lot. Those who have been out on the town and smell of booze the next morning are the ones I set out after. I chase them during training and won't leave them alone. I can't stand those players who perform below standard because they choose to lead a wild life. Dennis

in football. You couldn't have a big-

ger honour. I'm thrilled to bits. Sir Tom Finney on his knighthood.

Leg Two 4.600 miles

OCEAN

Can we play you every week? Coventry City fans to Manchester

United during their 3-2 victory. Nelson Mandela was as disappointed as I was. Ruud Gullit, Chelsea manager, on having to call off a meeting with the South African

■ Lest we forget, 96 supporters went to a match and didn't return home.

Manchester United newsletter warning that standing fans will be ejected from Old Trafford.

Poster at Melbourne Cricket Ground during first Test against South Africa. on the slightly tubby Shane Warne. I have challenged our players to refuse their appearance money because, quite frankly, they don't deserve it. Andy Keast, Harlequins coach, on losing 38-40 to Bristol.

It's not over until the Fat Man spins.

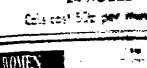
TODAY'S NUMBER 499

> The number of teams who have been knocked out of the FA Cup so far this season, going back to the preliminary round in August, through the four qualifying rounds, and the first and

second rounds proper.

صكنا من الاحل

TO RESPOND TO



READE

sis Management - How to

Handle the Pressure. With this

week's news that Tony Blair is

having the tennis court at Che-

quers done up, perhaps he

would be interested in how to

handle pressure situations, con-

trol adrenalin flows and learn

about the link between peak

performance and medium

Many of the players, both

men and women, have their

own home pages, including

'n

oot soldiers onwards oroblem with renners

Ch Wilke C. Chimberly Mion, a non-runner.

hose who dailed and

mether they like non mutah chalengedh

er witness. They up and star, man their

d mutter their in

Jaking party: Keep

e real greatmay of

tot Oldrugera

them Arm. nursing

is all this land with

Survivior Simple

with at fall Lie

Title new London

and your report

Chartel Hill

Jun 16 at

Bevan strikes late in day to justify recall

South Africa 197 for 5 v Australia

Michael Bevan revived the Australia bowling attack as South Africa were reduced to a crawl on the opening day of the sec-ond Test in Sydney yesterday.

The part-time spinner, recalled because of his bowling on 2 for 41 off 20 overs. the spin-conducive pitch after being dropped as a front-line wickets as Shane Warne toiled for no reward.

At the close of a snail-paced scoring day, the South African skipper, Hansie Cronje, was on 56 and Shaun Pollock on one. Cronje took nearly four hours to score his half-century to Matthew Elliott at mid-off. off 189 balls as South Africa scored at just over two runs an

Embarrassingly for the SCG authorities, play started 30 minntes late because the inexperienced groundsman overwatered

Gary Kirsten was the only

wicket to fall in the shortened first session of play. He was beaten by movement off the pitch in Glenn McGrath's seventh over and edged to Mark Taylor at first slip to be out for 11 with the score on 25.

Bevan removed the recalled Herschelle Gibbs and Brian McMillan to end with figures of

Gibbs, who displaced Daryll Cullinan, who has a terrible baisman last year, claimed two record against spin and Warne in particular, scored his first Test half-century, making 54 before he was caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy while slashing outside the off-stump late in the day.

> into hitting a full-toss straight Gibbs put on 97 for the fourth wicket with Cronje. Gibbs, who batted for 149 minutes and hit five boundaries off 137 balls, helped restore South Africa's fortunes after they lost

Bevan then lured McMillan

two wickets in one over. Greg Blewett's opening over half an hour after hunch, the 31st



Jacques Kallis avoids a Paul Reiffel bouncer in Sydney yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

of the innings with the score 70for 1, brought instant results. With his second ball, Blewett trapped the opener Adam Bacher lbw for 39 and three balls later Kallis was run out by a superb piece of fielding by Ricky Ponting.

Cronje played an uppish shot to Ponting at short midwicket. Kallis loitered out of his crease and was slow to back up and Ponting's throw broke the stumps with Kallis a metre short.

Metro Hearts

THE ON MY HANDS

Female, 49, with career, interests and friends, but no special man, seeks kind, able male, to help make the difference. East londer, 774531

THINGS IN LIFE

Sim female artist, young 53, N/S, would love to share best things in life, with a sorted, warm-hearted, well-read male,

warm-hearted, well-read male, of similar age. South Kent coest 77-102-2

est. 1214952 PLEASE BE GENUINE

Honest, reliable female, mid-20s, 5'9", brown hair/eyes, N/S, non-dmiker, likes looking after

non-drinker, tikes looking after animals, walking, seeks med-um-built male, 25-35, 5'9"+, N/S & non-drinker too, for

Intendship and who knows.

ARTS GRADUATE

Attractive, adventurous lady, enjoys salling, travel, music, li-erature, history, architecture,

seetong tali, slim, educated male, 40s-50s, who is a stimu

Sim, honest, caring, successful, indian Hindu female. 33, 55°, with Cay career, seeks an articulate, honest, young man, 32-39, with similar altributes, for friendship. London area. \$\text{F4789}\$

VERY ATTRACTIVE

South Africa won toss SOUTH AFRICA - First innings G Kirsten c Taylor b McGrath..... A M Bacher low Blewert

Donald, P. H. Adams.
AUSTRALIA: "M. A. Taytor, M. T. G. Elliott, G. S. Bleweit, M. E. Walugh, S. R. Walugh, R. T. Ponting, M. G. Bevan, fi A. Healy, P. R. Reiffel, S. K. Warms, G. D. McGrath.
Umpkress: D. B. Har (Aus.) and P. Wiley (Eng.).

Tendulkar axed

Sachin Tendulkar was sacked as captain of India vesterday because the selectors felt he could not cope with the pressures of playing and leading the side. Under Tendulkar, India won

three of their 17 Tests and 17 of 54 one-dayers, but as one of the world's leading batsmen he is certain to retain his place in the team under his successor, Mohammad Azharuddin.

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

How to handle tension - on the court and in your racket

The new tennis season starts on Monday in the Gulf with which has links to both men's section there is a piece on Crithe Qatar Open, where last and women's tennis. It also has vear Tim Henman recorded links to racket stringing and his first ATP Tour victory and where he started his rise up the rankings.

Henman is at 17 and Greg Rusedski No 6 as the new year begins with two weeks of minor tournaments before the first Grand Slam, the Aus-January 19th.

All this information and more is available on the official ATP site. Starting off with the complete calendar for the whole year, this comprehensive site has results, rankings, player details (although not yet updated to include 1997 figures).

Within the calendar there are links to web sites for individual tournaments plus the Davis Cup. The female equivalent, the WTA Tour, also has its own web site, which has many similar features. It does have its 1997 stats up to date and a better players' biography section linked to the rankings. It also contains more video clips.

A good central point to start exploring tennis sites on

Metro Hearts

tennis psychology.

In the former section you can find out that Pete Sampras likes his rackets strung at the top of the scale, around 74lb (33-34 kilos). Henman plays with a more moderate 62 to 67lb, whereas Rusedski prefers tralian Open, which begins on a considerably slacker tension, which paradoxically generates greater power, at 48-52lb. This comes courtesy of Jay's Custom

Stringing. You can also compare the best stringing machines and look at the Racquet Stringing Machine Frequently Asked Questions page, where you learn about the differences between floating clamps, fixed

Pete Sampras, whose site is run by CBS Sportsline and more interesting than the man himself. Of the women the player with the most web sites, all unofficial, is Anna Kournikova, the photogenic Russian teenager. clamps and swivel clamps.

— Edward Abelson

ADDRESSES

ATP Tour - http://atptour.com/index.html

Australian Open - http://www.ausopen.org/index.html Davis Cup - http://www.daviscup.org/indexie.htm

Wimbledon - http://www.wimbledon.org/

WTA Tour - http://www.corelwtatour.com/

Advantage Tennis - http://www.advantage-tennis.com/frindex2.htm Jay's Custom Stringing - http://www.jcsnyc.com/

TEL: 0171 293 2222

CLASSIFIED: PERSONAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Metro Hearts

Metro Hearts

Metro Hearts

TO RESPOND TO ANY **Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL:**

AND FOLLOW THE EASY INSTRUCTIONS. 24 HOURS A DAY!

(Calls cost 50p per minute at all times)

Voice personals

TO PLACE YOUR FREE Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL: 0800 216 318

24 HOURS A DAY! FOR LIVE ASSISTANCE FROM A VOICE PERSONALS® REPRESENTATIVE, CALL MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-8PM.

WOMEN SEEKING

NO PLACE LIKE HOMER ing. NW London. **1** 4361

ALL THAT GLITTERS... Optimistic, beautiful, black female, 36, mature student, hedonist, looking for her wing commander, 32-48, who enjoys life, wants commitment, support, "gold" in his life. SW London, 12/4/389 TIRED OF SEARCHING

tights A

100

-, -,

•

Sean Der

Kirli

fin the fire

naici

ell. Or 🤄

he also in

paint states.

TOPV

NUMBER

PARK CENT

WATE THE

HTE'S'

mx4

100

Sec.

klam! MEAD WOUNT hiteD or SEARCHARG inchesional female, 39, 5'6', seeks tail male, to help me redecorate my ate. London. 124387 CHARISMATIC WOMAN

CHARISMATIC WOMAN Femsle, 41, seeks reliable, funny romantic male, to be my hero, škes football, films, north-em soul, P&B, kitsch, reeding, cats, smoker, no complications Particular, attractive, intelligent, honest, caring, affectionate female, 40s, who loves the sea.

history, reading, seeks tail, gen-uzne male, with maturity & loy-alty. Scots/irish, who values trusting friendship. \$24901 trusting friendship. 17:4901

PICTURE THIS

Integring, patite lemale, 30, mature student, enjoys literature, philosophy, seeks interesture, philosophy, seeks interesture, balanced, toyai, warmhearted male, who appreciates naturedoutdoors, similar age, for triendship, possibly more. London. 17:4395

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

Successful, fit, professional,

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
Successful, fit professional,
young 40-comething female,
ikes art, yoga, outdoors, vegetarian cooleng, seeks tail, kind
man, NS, to share new adventures. Cambridge. 274980
CRIENTAL FEMALE
Exception CHIENTAL FEMALE
Friendly, sociable, petite
female, 52°, GSOH, enjoys chema, music, concerns, eating
out, seeks sincere, kind, protessional mase, 38-50, for
friendship, possible relationship, London, 12*4845

NEW IN TOWN. Peote sim, blanda female, 45, iaw graduate, likes swamning, music, reading, running, seeks companion, for pub functions. dining out, thestre and friend-ship. New to Berkshire. \$24859 SELL-BY DATE APPROACHING? --

Don't worry. Petits, attractive, professional, white female, likes at the good things in life, seeks seniar black male, 48-.

male, for possible romance. **23**4553

CARING TIMES
Female, 30s, seeks N African/
Arab male, 25-40, must be humanitarian and caring, for good times, possible romanca. Birmingham area. 25-4896 SUITS YOU?

SUITS YOU?

Attractive, sporty, petite, intelfigent ternele, 28, dark brown
hairleyes, likes architecture,
photography, art, spontaneous
travel, seeks tall, attractive,
intelligent, furny male, 30-40,
for possible romanca, London,
874604

CANTERBURY AREA Artistic, professional female, 5'8", dark trair, green eyes, enjoys bravel, salling, arts, countryside, good tood, saeks tall, solvent, artistic male, 50-60, emotionally available, for

60, emotionally available companionship. 275063 JAVE WITH ME
Independent, slim, fil ternale,
44, 55°, mother, likes firensture,
films, the sea, sursetts, fiving
outdoors, dancing, seeks pariner, for five and holidays,
maybe more. Gloucs. \$25041

ARTS GRADUATE
Attractive, and adventurous

Attractive and adventurous temale, enjoys travel, music, literature. history, architecture, seeks talk stim, educated, stimulating companion, 40-50, for interesting times. \$75047 NEW HORIZONS NEW HOHLOMS
Professional, attractive temale, 48, N/S, with wit and infellgence, enjoys chema, gardening, music, seeks funny male,
into Redio 4, to develop new
riterastivalents, laughter, and
water and water and water and
water water water and
water and water and
water water water water and
water and water and
water water water water and
water water water water water and
water wat

ARTIST'S PALATE NEEDS SOUL MATE Stim, dark-halred painter, 50, seeks serious tood lover/stimu-

eating out in central London. Call me for more information. **#**5086 TIME TO DREAM Retired widow, seeks genuine, chearful, optimistic gentiemen. for triendship, possible mean-ingful, long-term relationship. London, 12/4636

time you





To place your own FREE personal ad, call

0800 216 318

For FREE live assistance from a Vaice Personals' representative call Monday-Friday 9am-8pm.

Voice personals

Voice Personals* appears in The Independent each Saturday and in The Independent on Sunday

Soth the advert and the call to place the advertisement are line, however advertisers are billed at 50p per minute for message retrieve.

The advertiser is strongly encouraged to record a voice greening prior to publication if you respond to an advertiser who has not recorded a voice greening, you will still have the opportunity to leave a massage

Assy Queries?
(you should have any questions should any supects of our Voice Resource, service, please and FREE on 0800 216 318.

friendship. London area. 194789

SHARE THE FANTASY
Could you arrange an under water orchestra, whale I go the supermarks? Shall we live in a global village, but preserve our identifies? I'm 35, purfessional, Indian temale. Hampstead and surroundings. 124732

LOOKING
FOR NEW BEGINNING
Independent, lively, silm, attractive redhead, early 40s. N/S, enloys arts, countryside, walking, travel, paople, seeks warm, emotionally available, silvent male, with a GSOH, for friend-ship, new horizons and possibly more. Surrey. 194739

SURGHTY LASS, 25. ble relation services area. 1274731
MID SUSSEX

EDGE OF THE WORLD Eccentric lady, 44, 5'6", an his-torian/artist/journalist, probably attractive, needs to find a chalguractive, negative to find a creative general companion, with similar interests, for long walks, who doesn't mind cats and a chaotic, vibrant household. Ely-Cambridge, 274628

ORIENTAL FEMALE

CHALLENGING CHALLENGING
Aniculale, stractive, successful lemeie, 40s, who needs lots of space, seeks her male match, objective - mutual TLC and fun.
Oxfordshire area. 254742
ARE YOU FOR MET
Female, early 50s, seeks male, to share friendship and a possible relationship. Gloucestershire area. 254731

MID SUSSEX Attractive, warm and creative, vital woman, 43, loves country-side and the arts, seeking intelligent, expressive, soft and strong man, 40s, to laugh, talk and explore logether. 274641

TIME ON MY HANDS

Time On the thractive, indepth. TIME ON MY HANDS
Pedie, allm, attractive, independent, sincert, warm, motivated, protessional female. 42, oriental origin, anioys theatre, openaciessic music, gardening, cooking, seeks caring, geousne, sincers, educated male, smalar age, to share interests, for friend-ship, relationship. 224556

ORIENTAL FEMALE
Frendly, sociable, petite lady,
52°, has GSOH, enjoys cinema,
music, concerts, eahing out,
seeks sincere, fund, protessional male, 38-50, for Inendship
and possible relationship
TRUE ROMANCE

Descriptor to the light and attract

TRUE ROMANCE
Romanto. tall, sim and altractive and outgoing lemale, 40s.
likes moves, walking, reading, historical interests. Seleks genure, tall and attractive, prolessional male, 40s-50s, for friendship, possible relationship

24646
LIVELY MUSICIAN
Outgoing, musical, sensitive Outgoing, musical, sensitive temale, passionale about classiral music, seeks creative, culgai music, seeks Chame, Cul-lured, secure, dworzed, N/S man, 48-58, to share travel, concents, country walks and good conver-sation, Cambs, 12/4831

SEEKING WOMEN YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL

Breganous, intelligent, articu-ate, male actor, 27, enjoys dinng out sport, whirtwind social life, tried of panto, seeks similar lemale good tairy, 20-29, to act as super-ego in lasting relation-ship 225087

Attractive Insh. professional male, 39, 5'10', dark looks & dark brown eyes, positive atti-tude to life seeks very attractive, intelligent, Insh female. wicked SOH & intellect, los romance, London 25056 ARE YOU THERE? Professional male, 49, Middle-Eastern origin, likes reading. the countryside, diring in, seeks independent female, 30-45, N/S, for friendship, possibly more. New to London. 124402

Professional male, 32, brown blue, own house, likes music, cinema, driving out, seeks genune canng, lowing lemale, for relationship, 5 Wales 12/5042 HANDSOME, ASIAN MALE

ASIAN MALE
Professional/entrepreneur.
financially secure, caring, lowing, sincere. young-looking 37, 510°, medium build, NS, enjoys chema, arts, sport, music, seeks independent, attractive female, 25-35°, nationality unimportant, for inendship, perhaps more? Modands area. 174935

ANYBODY OUT THERE?
Communicative, shy, successful, caring, independent, professional mate. young 40, seeks stimilar, enigmalic, petite.

fessonal maie, young 40, eeeks similar, engmatic, petite, sim, shy ternale, 25+, for romanos. 275046

NEW YEAR, NEW START

Outgoing, very caring, sincere, ax-naval gentleman, good personaldly, oern home, enjoys havel many interests, seeks lady, 40-50, for Inendship, possible relationship Single mum wellcome. South England. 275030

hops 8 the rat race, seeks temale, for lasting relationship. Nottingham area. 27:5057

SEEKING
SPECIAL LADY
Male, 42, 5'6', slim build, enjoys reading, walking, eating infout, seeks temale. 35-40, for friend-ship, hopefully more. Worcester gree. 27:5055

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Tall, slim male, 33, N/S, no bies, enjoys criema, diring out, lazy Sundays, seeks pretty, fur-hoving female, 32-42, for friend-ship. Hopefully and reading and relationship. Hopefully socialising and relationship. Hopefully and the seeks and having a good time, to possible manace. 27:4895

THE CUISINE OF LOVE
Professional male, 32, 5'10', average build, loves music, the countryside, cycling, sports, Chinese cusine, seeks female, 22-32, N/S, for possible good himes. Lancaster. 27:4887

A UNION OF LIGHT
Tall, attractive, well-travelled male, potential comediany philosopher, seeks good-locking lemale, for postive & spiritual communication Mid Walks/Shropshire area. 27:4903

SEEKING A NEW SOUL

Shropshire area. 22:4903 SEEKING A NEW SOUL

Male, young 35, 511. young outook, seeks soul mate, for irlendship, maybe more Kirkcaldy area, 124691

MANCHESTER BLOKE

TOTAL STATE OF THE STATE OF Protessional male, 35, 5'10", medium build, brown hairleyes, seeks female, for relationship. ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR? ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR?
Kind, essygoing, fit, attractive,
professional, Indian male, 38,
6, enjoys isughing, yoga, attenative therapy, theatre, travel,
seeks sim/medium-built, warm
lemale, any nailonality, for
romance. London/SE area.
374959
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Warm. handsome. mature.

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Warm, handsome, mature,
handle, financially secure, profeasional male, enjoys travel,
salsa dancing, the arta, chrema,
sport, leaping fit, seeking an
attractive female, 33-38. for
romance, London 124647

SOMETHING MISSING
Successful, single, secure
male, 40s, 51°, broad build,
like music, bergains and hugs,
seeks solvent, stim temale,
30s, to build a relationship and
more. E Susser/Kent. 124902

DON'T DREAM
ABOUT THE LOTTERY

ABOUT THE LOTTERY Sincere, kind, considerate, romantic male, 46, seeks come-one to love. Must be sim, femi-nine and N/S. Surrey/SW London, 27:4885

ARTICULATE MALE Solvent, easygoing, 48, 510°, no tes, varied interests, seeks temale, 40-50, for friendship, possible relationship. Wirral/

similar interests, for good times together \$24937 Any Queries?

If you should have any questions about any aspects all our Volce Personals service, please call FREE on 0800 216 318,

FREE on 0800 216 338,

LOG-FIRES & ICE-CREAM Handsome, Independent and romante male, 30, good career, with own home/car, good intestyle & traveller, seeks that special lady, for inendship, laughter, conversation and romance 249,17

LET'S START AS FRIENDS Male, 31, 52°, enjoys country invrig & crty file, seeks intelligent, unpretentious woman, GSOH, for inendship, possibly more London, 24,4864

SWIM IN THS

Tall male, 33, likes dancing, swemming, criema, travelling, seeks temale, smilar age, for companionship, possible marrage 174,4942

NOT FOR SALE

Well-built, quier, reliable male, 42, seeks temale, 30+, for socialising, Don't be stry, give me a call, 274,943

FASSION FRUIT

Male, 26, seeks special female, for thin, Intendship and possible relationship, 24,4853

SEEKING CHEERFUL LADY Divorced, silm male, 54, 5111; dark/brown, enjoys motor racing, 50x/65x/75s music, natural history, cats, travel, reading, seeks chearfully lady, 24-50, for thin, laughter, frendship, possibly more, 27,4955

LOOKING FOR

A WINTER ROMANCE

Outgoing, kind, vegetartan, romanist male, 38, 515°, NS, 5000.

A WIN IER HOMANGE OUTDOING, kind, vegetartan, romanite male, 38, 58°, N/S, GSOH, enloy conversation, music, dancing, dring infout, seeks outpoing, uncomplicated lady, with GSOH, who takes like in her stride, for friendship, possible relationship, 22:4836° sible relationship. 134839 HIPPY AT HEART Attractive, unpretentious make teacher, 42, 58°, medium build who thinks he's younger than he is, into jogging, politics, irav-el, writing, walking, Russian language/society seeking a compatible, younger temale. East Mollands. 774939

black male, 31, se 25-30, for a long

25-30, for a long-lerm relation-ship. London area. 324502
GAME, SET & MATCH
Friendly, outgoing, very socia-ble male, 25, 5°10°, dark/blue, medium buld, N/S, enjoys one-ma, theatre, sluing, playing golf/ rackel sports, seeks a similar lady, 28-40. for mendship first, maybe more, SE area. 324767 ATTRACTIVE & TALL Single, sesygoing, professional Single, easygoing, professions male, 36, with VGSOH, seek maje, 30, will vestor, sees independent, attractive lady, for romance. SW area. £24741

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
Tall and well-spoken male, 37, seeks a temale companion, for socialising and outlings etc.

seeks a lemale companion, for socialising and outings etc. London 12:4788

ATTRACTIVE, LONDON MALE
Silm, well-travelled, media professional, 30s, 510°, seeking an honest female, for enlightenment. GSCH and energy a bonus. 12:4744

SEEKING LOVE
Sindere, athletic male, 38, 56°. Sincere, athletic male, 38, 5'6", seeks Oriental lady, for food, onerne, walks, travel, tile long rela-tionship. Gwent based. 224740 ESSEX TEACHER Thoughtful, considerate widower, 50, N/S, GSOH, pleasant nature.

things French, animals, reading seeks a similar temate, to share all life has to offer. 274749 SEEKING

ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE

BUILDING LOVE
Sim. thoughtful male, 33, seeks todybuilder female, with warm, withy personality, for triendship first. E Midlands.

JUST FRIENDS

EXPLORE WITH ME Famale, speaks several languages, would also to travel to Europe, Middle East, Affica, visit art galleries in London, seeks straight female companion, 30-50, North London, 124380

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES Exciting, fur-loving gentleman, aged 31, likes languages, trav-el and reading, seeks French-speaking male/lady thands, for outings, socialising and friend-ship. \$2,4352

ship, relationship. Birmingham area. 24745 GUIDELINES: Private individuals seeking long-term managements relationships may advertise in Voice Personals* We suggest that acts contain a self-description, age range, likewise, and avacatives. Add containing sexually explicit or endomental language will not be accepted. We reserve the right to reluse or edit any add for any reason. Ads may not be submitted by persons younger from 18 years of age. We suggest that the first meeting always be held in a public place and that you do not reveal your half name, address, or home phone rumber until you are contented as description, age range, likewise and that you do not reveal your half name, address, or home phone rumber until you are contented to assume so liability for the content of all replies to any orderitisement or recorded message and for any damnisment or recorded message and for any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement. By using Voice Personals*, the advertiser are any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals*, the advertiser are any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals*, the advertiser are any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals*, the advertiser are any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals*, the advertiser are any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals*.

Independent Hearts

JOIN CINELINK Socialise around Cinema/Arts events in 2 central London Tel: 0181 800 4822 or send SAE to 138 Lordship Road

London NI6 0QL Our members come from all walks of life and from all over the country - we're sure to know someone who could be right for you. President to To Administration and Landon we see that 01869 324 100

NOTICE TO READERS The Independent cannot ensurantee that respondent

answering advertisements of this page, although we hope that as a matter of couriesy When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of or family of trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution

by genuine respon

SIRTUS ALL COM Profiles Club Magazine TOGETHER WORE FUN Information Pack Sirius, for the intelligent, articulate and well educated, providing personal interviews and, of course, complete discretion at all times. 1100 of free phone calls!

0800 LIAIS ON

(**** GAY MEN** Form long term relationships through Significant

Others the Introduction Bureau for Professional Gay Men 0171 499 5939

(To advertise in this section please call Claire Louise Donald on 0171 293 2347



Contracts & Tenders * GAY? BI? OR * JUST CURIOUS?

EXPLORE
YOUR
SECRET
DESIRES! LIVE CHAT 00592-568 588

ATTRACTIVE, MONEST, CARING and particular lady seeks tall, broad gentleman of honesty, maturity and loyalty, perhaps scois or this for special trusting themaskip, possibly more. See Contracts & Tenders

the Phone Café 帮**60** WOMEN

The Nightclub at the end of your phone Talk live & uncensored...Girls 🧳 & Guys on line Now! DIAL FREEFONE

Chat Lines

0800 138 8509

18/PHOTO-SHOOT



Bob Anderson, 'the Limestone Cowboy', gave the American Gerald Verrier a taste of his particular kind of Wild West shooting in their early group match, which the magnificently monickered maestro took by three sets to one

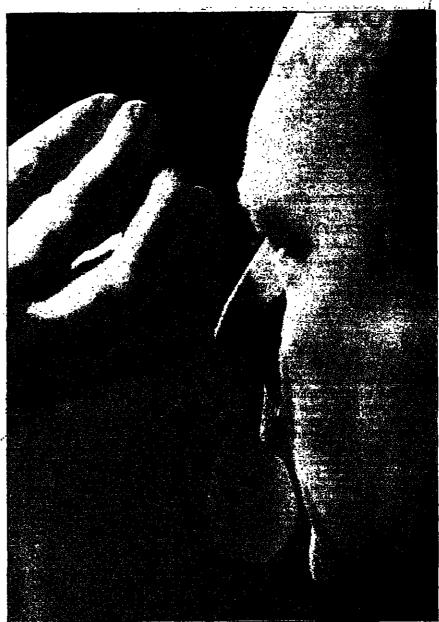


Double top's Circus

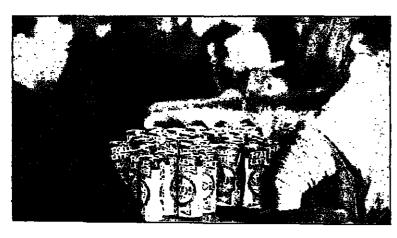
There was all the fun of the fair at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet this week as the Professional Darts Council's version of the World Championship took the spotlight. Despite all the problems in the game, the atmosphere at this level remains a delightful orgy of over-the-top ochemania. Doubles and trebles are the order of the day though a lot of punters still seem to prefer lager or beer, while the players themselves tend to stick to water.

The professional sport dates back to the Welsh valleys in the 1930s, and whatever the beverage, the spirit is uninliabited, partisan yet free of rancour, proof that sportsmanship can flourish alongside passion. The artists of the arrow - which is made these days of sprung tungsten - are on target to win back an audience divided by the split with the British Darts Council. The semifinals and final take place today and tomorrow amid disco-style sound and fury in Essex.

Copies of these photographs - and any others by the Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam - can be ordered by telephoning 0171-293 2534.

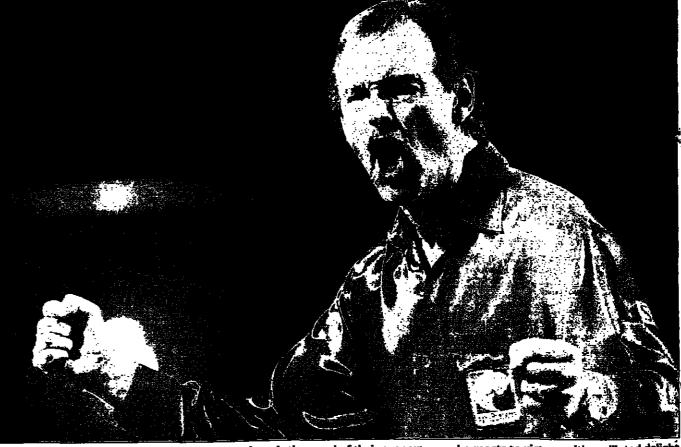


John Ferrell throws during his defeat by Rod 'The Prince of Style' Harrington .



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID Ashdown





Anderson shows that the passion of the competitors is the equal of their supporters as he reacts to victory with undiluted delight



صكنا من الاعل

fripping the tr

nto Wels

gifter league miles entertai Ster 2 the FREE COP

loucester ar

ters of the last 36 gode Charles ... Mi Terley's Botton Bank Strate On East

av York on nations

CHRIS MAUME SPORT ON TV

began in prehistoric times, when "the caveman chucked missed the warthog". Whether there was one of Waddell's an- party! cestors on hand to provide the commentary is not known, but it's a nice thought.

mind is precisely that - trippy, been conducting his annual collision with the English language at the World Championship (Sky Sports 2). The Circus Tavern in Purfleet, Essex, is the setting and Waddell is the ringmaster

He was in full flow from the first afternoon, with John "The Full Monty" Ferrell (clothed, sadly) taking on Rod "Prince of Style" Harrington ("dressed like a City gent who's just got a hundred grand bonus.")

inspired for being unexpected - Sid was away: "Whether you his spear at a tree because he'd live in New Orleans or Newcastle upon Tyne - this is the

His associate, Dave Lanning, picked up the sartorial theme: "There's a bar off Wall A trip through Waddell's Street where you must wear tie and jacket - and that's unique man. The Voice Of Darts has in this world of darts." Cue Sid's ultimate conversation-capper: "It's long time since a Weishman was kicked off the stage in an international for wearing a bobble hat and a flasher's mac."

Sometimes it is impossible joined, he said: "You've got to to keep track of the associations relax and be tense at the same his synapses conjure up. For extime. It's a paradox whether ample, when Harrington had you're watching in Washington won one of the opening legs, Waddell came up with this: DC or Washington, County Durham - our viewers in "He's been having a good time America, welcome to the Cirof it actually - he finished the cus Tavern down by the Daily Star crossword for the first Thames!" (this last bit delivered As they entered to Blur's time in 10 years and he's gone in an atrocious Deep South

- the stance is every bit as im-

portant as in golf, or, indeed, pole vaulting." It's that "in-

Then, as American viewers

deed" I like.

In Sid Waddell's world, darts "Song 2" - a choice all the more up and woke the wife." Sorry? accent filtered through his break up their sentences to spending our taxes to teach Harrington was making the native Geordie).

As Harrington struggled to early running - or, as Waddell reassert himself, Waddell's preput it: "Rod's starting like a occupation with the New World jackal out of the woods that kept reappearing. "Another 60. hasn't had a meal for a week." would really chuck the gartic in As he faltered slightly -- both the broth," he said. "He was hitwere going through "patches ting them cool as ice - now he's the opposite of purple" - Wadsweating like a donkey. It's dell showed that he can come up with the technical stuff as madhouse in Madison Avenue or here in Essex." well. "He's lost his line, has Rod

Waddell's weirdness is not just to do with the words he chooses (or rather, the words which choose him). His delivcry, with its arbitrary whoops and growls and flashes of seemingly Hitleresque ranting, is like one of those modern classical or free jazz pieces that explores the whole instrument. A few minutes of Waddeli and you feel you've experienced the entire range of the human voice. I've written before about how sports anchors learn to

avoid monotony. Waddell doesn't so much break his up as hang, draw and quarter them. You wonder if perhaps he has Tourette's Syndrome.

Talking about John Lowe, for example, one word in the sentence was roared out: "Lobo showing that PROFILE, that would have graced an Etruscan coin." And back talking about Harrington, he said: "He's at his best when he's playing somebody in hot form and bringing out that EXTRA GEAR that the great Bristow talks about."

If your attention wanders ightly (and I have to confess to finding the sport itself only mildly diverting), you find yourself coming in on tantalising, surreal scraps - " ... Education Guardian ... Tonka toys

... tonsillectomy ... no need for the Labour government to be passport," was a spleadid con-

people to spell darts..."

It is hard, though, not to conclude that, as with John Motson, some of Waddell's best lines are minted in advance (if I'm wrong, a grovelling acknowledgement of his improvisational capacity). We demand spontaneity from our commentators. Knowing that Motson had probably spent sleepless nights cooking up his "The Crazy Gang have beaten the Culture Club" line, delivered on the final whistle of the 1988 FA Cup final, diminished its entertainment value. And how long did he spend thinking up the line about Buchan ascending the 39 steps of the

So, for example, although a line like, "If he grimaces any more he'll be developing fangs and asking for a Transylvanian

Royal Box after the 1977 final?

tribution to the match between Keith Deller and Mick Manning, it had more than a whiff of the notebook about it - as did his description of an Anglo-Scots confrontation between Harrington and Jamie Harvey as "the Scottish broadsword

against the English épée". Still, it scarcely matters when he comes up with lines such as this, on Lowe. "When the kids have finished with the video games and they intend taking up the art of tickling tungsten, this is the man you could model yourself on."

Or my favourite, on the barrel-bellied Dave Manley: "There's a charisma and body language about him. 'Give me men about me who are sleek, Shakespeare said of Mark Antony, And look what happened to him.

A gala performance from the Bard of the Oche.

Lions breathing life into Welsh dragon

After their glamour days of the 1970s and early 1980s, London Welsh had plummeted to the lower reaches of league rugby a decade later. It has been a struggle but, as David Liewellyn hears, they are on their way back. They are top of their league and today they entertain Gloucester in the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

The days when London Welsh, a dragon in exile, breathed fire over all-comers, set matches mer League Five (South) they alight with glorious exploits and regularly drew crowds of 4,000 plus for a club game are they escaped relegation last long over. They disappeared season it was obvious they with the advent of league rug- needed some disciplined guidby. The game's headlong rush sionalism heralded a sharp decline in fortunes at Old Deer

Park. In their pomp they boasted no fewer than seven Lions, including the brilliant John Dawes, captain of the triumphant tour to New Zealand Gerald Davies, JPR Williams, and Mike Roberts. At their Three) and the aim is to gain height more than 25 years ago quarter-final stage of the inau- end of this season. "It could be

tlay's visit of Gloucester in the

Welsh, and together with the other half-dozen Lions legends. he is bent on restoring pride to in 1979. a once great club.

consortium fronted by John Taylor, the former Wales and Lions flanker, stepped in to reorganise the administration and running of the club and at the same time injected around £500,000 into the club coffers. A share issue raised a further £150,000.

While the Exiles had althe murky anonymity of the forwere looking wobbly again some 12 months ago. Although ance on the training ground and Union and League, to coach

Welsh have hauled themselves things. They currently reside in 1971 as well as John Taylor, albeit by a solitary point - at the yourself." top of Jewson National League Mervyn Davies, Geoff Evans One (effectively Division promotion to the Allied Dunthey met Gloucester at the bar Premiership Two at the Competition, as it was then promotion," admits Dawes candidly. "All our hopes are on go-

Three sponsors later, to- ing up. It's all or nothing." Griffiths has few doubts, He fourth round of what is now the has coached the Great Britain Tetley's Bitter Cup is a like a Rugby League side and is still

is now president of London He was a full-back with Llanelli before taking the route so many have followed, joining St Helens

A bleak midwinter last year get," says Griffiths, who will not culminated in the departure of entertain the prospect of missthe coach, Mike Gosling. A ing out on it. "Perish the

thought," he declares. "Although we have a difficult run-in in the second half of the season, I am optimistic of our

He is not so certain about how they will do against Gloucester. "We have injuries to key players," explains Griffiths, "and certainly the league ready hauled themselves from has to be our priority." Dawes echoes that and, with his sights on the league, says: "The most important thing is for us not to pick up any injuries against Glouceste

Griffiths is understandably reluctant to pick players carrying knocks just to put up a brave proached Clive Griffiths, a for- beckons against Lydney the mer Welsh international at weekend after. For all that, he acknowledges the import of the fixture. "To start the new Since his arrival in June, year with a prestigious Cup tie against Gloucester and to find back to the brink of better ourselves at the top of the table, well, you have to pinch

For Dawes the arrival of Gloucester, "is a little bit of the past. A chance for reminiscence. It's good to have a senior club at Old Deer Park once again. Gloucester by tradition gural RFU Club Knockout really bad for us if we don't win are one of the top clubs, whatever their struggles they have remained in the top flight. They bring good support.

"And while our chances of winning are not as good as theirs must be, we'll still have



Clive Griffiths, the former Welsh international and now coach at London Welsh. Since his arrival last lune, there has been a revival at the club, culminating in the leadership of the Jewson National League One and a place in the fourth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup

will want to avoid is a repeat of glebold on things. It was a very sionally we have given away silthe spectacle of that first ever dour match." Cup meeting between the two sides more than a quarter of a stilled an expansive style on the century ago. It finished 9-4 to club since his arrival, but he is Gloucester and Dawes re- aware of the inherent dangers members: "We were well beat- of that approach. "With our

Griffiths has, at least, inside out. But typical Glouces- take a lot of chances, particu- coaches of that golden era -

The Exiles have lost just once

in Jewson National League

One, which they lead by a point,

with the solitary slip-up at home

Former Gloucester coach

Keith Richardson is in charge

at Newbury and Richard Hill,

the present Gloucester coach,

ly seven-pointers." That is a legacy of his own playing days with Lianelli. "I was be played. I know the value of brought up on expansive running rugby in the 1970s when Wales were so successful. And en. I think, apart from JPR style of play we will always leak the philosophies that were spectators. Williams, we had our strongest points," he admits, "because we handed down to me by the

Gloucester are well armed with

They are resting their regu-

lar half-backs with Ian Sanders

coming in for Scott Benton.

while at stand-off Nick Osman

replaces Mark Mapletoft. An in-

jury crisis at hooker, Phil

Greening (knee) and Neil Mc-

Carthy (medial ligaments) are

still not fit, means third-choice

Chris Fortey starts the match,

with Chris Hall, 18, on the

information.

Davies at Cardiff Institute were of 15-man rugby. That is the way I think the game has to involving everyone in the game and I think everyone enjoys the game far more, players and

"After all we are in the entertainment business now. People dragon awakes.

What Griffiths and the rest ter, they did us up front and at larly from deep. Most of the Carwyn James and Norman will come and watch a good of the London Welsh hierarchy half-back. They just had a stran- time they come off, but occa- Gale at Llanelli, Leighton brand of football, which excites chuckle, "certainly we have caused a few people's hearts to

flutter these last four months." A good show against Gloucester, capped by promotion back to the top flight where many feel they belong, should also get pulses racing again. The

Gloucester armed with inside information about the Exiles

The storms of the last 36 hours have disrupted the weekend's Tetley's Bitter Cup ties. David Liewellyn discovers what's on and what's not

The heavy rain and gales have London Scottish, overnight rain taken their toll with three Tetley's Bitter Cup matches called off and two further games facing inspections. The postponed ties will be played on 10 January, which at 12.30pm, to see if Worcester QF will cause League matches for can proceed against Bristol tothat date to be rearranged, and morrow, while a decision will be in a season top heavy with fixtures made tomorrow morning about the backlog can only add to in- another Sunday tie, that bedividual clubs' problems.

Leicester, last year's finalists, and Sale must kick their heels after the ties at Coventry and Moseley respectively were called off, and the waterlogged match, that between Rugby and Reading. There are doubts about Bath's tie at home to is the worry, and if there is any there will be inspection at 8.30

by referee Steve Lander. There is another inspection, tween Blackheath and Saracens.

The third Sunday tie between Wasps and Harlequins goes ahead at Loftus Road. Surprisingly the majority of the Quins side who slunk off in shame af-West Midlands lost another ter the League defeat at home drops to the replacements' to Bristol in midweek, make the game. Andy Keast, their director of rugby, said yesterday: "I haven't wielded the axe for a couple of reasons.

"One, I don't have that many fit players left and secondly, I am giving a lot of people the opportunity to put right some of the things that went wrong against Bristol."

Injuries to centre Johnny Christmas Eve gales. Ngauamo (shoulder) and standoff Paul Challinox (dead leg) chances down at Old Deer after joining the Kingsholm Franklin's Gardens where

Liley and lock Luke Gross. The tight-head spot will decided later, it rests between Alan Yates and Ricky Nebbett. Newcastle's match at home to Second Division Exeter goes ahead despite the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders dis-

to the bench. Wing Dan Luger

bench as do utility back Rob

Gloucester are taking no

has been probing for clues as to possible areas of weakness in the Exiles' game. In addition

to Newbury.

covering that their main stand had suffered damage during the Cup-tied wing Brian Johnson, who becomes a full-time Gloucester player tomorrow

SKIING

return to fitness of hooker Tom draw and have been doing their

Billups sees Paul Delaney drop homework on London Welsh.

bench. London Welsh are without four key backs including stand-off Craig Raymond. There is a local derby at

mean places for Tulsen Tollett Park. They are determined to crew on loan from Newbury. Northampton are still without and Thierry Lacroix, while the feature in Monday's fifth-round scored a try in that match. So former England lock Martin Bayfield and must also do without the services of England scrum-half Matt Dawson. Bayfield, a former Bedford player. has still not fully recovered from a groin strain while Dawson suffered a shoulder injury against Wasps and Saints do not want to put either player at risk

> at this stage of the season. Bedford have included the South Africa flanker Rudi Straeuli, 34, in their squad as cover for Junior Paramore. Former Natal lock Shaun Platford is expected to partner Scotland throughout the match," Roh international Scott Murray in

A player with the Welsh Districts club, Cambrian, has been banned for five years after an incident involving a referec. Lock Wayne Morgan, 35, is alleged to have assaulted the match official, Emyr Adlam,

Five-year ban for Welsh lock

during the Rhondda club's recent match against Glyncoch. The club condemned Morgan, but insisted that there mit-

igating circumstances. "In no way do we condone any assault on a referee but to be fair to Wayne he was provoked [by a Glyncoch player] Richards, a spokesman for Cambrian, said.

HOCKEY

New York on national guard

MIM from Edinburgh will de- League, and Julia Robertson, fend their title as the DTZ In- who is on holiday. Leicester will ternational Indoor Invitation also be short. Sarah Blanks, day at Worcester and Kidder- replace Carol Voss, who has six players from the US National Kirsty Bowden and Purdey squad, could provide a stiff test.

The Women's National Indoor League also starts this weekend. Slough, the Premier without Karen Brown, who has weapon in Hightown's armoury. the Broncos to the Australian an extra qualifying tic.

| Bill Colwill | Super League title and the | Dove | initially opted out of the Indoor

withdrawn, is on holiday and Miller have elected not to play.

Hightown open their programme against Doncaster and Division champions, open their club have recruited Clifton's cos coach, Wayne Bennett. campaign tomorrow at Crystal Denise Marston-Smith for the : Bennett, Veivers' brother-in-Palace against Leicester and indoor season and her drag law, has agreed to show the two despite the offer from several Chelmsford. Slough will be shot at corners will be a powerful

RUGBY LEAGUE Schofield's Brisbane blueprint Wiberg's Olympics in doubt

flying around the world to learn year. "We hope to come back Schofield, the former Great from someone like that it's Britain captain, will guide Huddersfield next season without any but he and his assistant. Phil Veivers, are travelling Brisbane

men the methods which helped

Super League's rawest coach is World Club Championship last time to pack it in."

amateur clubs to play them in

Pernilla Wiberg, the overall World Cup champion, may miss at the feet of the most success- with a lot of new ideas," said the Winter Olympics because of Tournament gets under way to- called into the England squad to ful man in the game. Garry Schofield, "If you can't learn two broken ribs.

in X-rays taken on Thursday, The Super League champi- several days after the Swede previous coaching experience, ons, Bradford Bulls, have re- took a hard fall in a race in leased 20 players following the : Lienz, Austria. "This is no fun Olton Terraquest. The North to spend 10 days with the Bron-side. Oldham are still left out of it is not dangerous to compete the Silk Cut Challenge Cup with broken ribs, the pain could third-round draw on Monday, : inhibit her performance.

- Dave Hadfield ta Platter, said.

side, is looking to extend the flyson at Kranjska Gora today and The fractures were revealed

The Austrian all-rounder, winner of three races already this winter, hopes to extend his decision to disband their reserve; at all," Wiberg said. Although already commanding lead with victory in today's giant statom. The 25-year-old former bricklaver will face tough competi-"What will be decisive is tion from the event's reigning whether Pernilla feels she can world champion. Michael von

go all out," her trainer, Agne- Grünigen.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Steelers reinforced by Bettis

Cup leader, Hermann Maier, : the way of the New England Patriots' possible return to the Suing start he has made this sea- per Bowl today when the two teams meet at Three Rivers Stadium in the American Football

Conference play-offs. Pittsburgh, eliminated from the post-season play-offs in humiliating fashion last year by the Pats, are rested and their rushing attack should receive a boost with the return of Jerome

The men's overall World The Pittsburgh Steelers stand in yards in New England's 28-3 win over the Steelers last season. In the National Football Conference play-offs, Randali Cunningham and the Minnesota Vikings go to San Francisco after their last-second, 23-22 victory over the New York Giants. Cunningham threw a touchdown pass in the final two minutes be-

> the game-winning field goal. San Francisco, meanwhile, Bettis from injury. Their rush will be without their injured rundefence is the best in the NFL. ning back Garrison Hearst. But However, it will be tested by the 49ers' defence makes the - Peter Frisch: Curtis Martin, who gained 166 club firm favourites.

fore taking Minnesota forward for



New Year, new script. Celtic found the key to the door of the Rangers defence to record their first win in the Old Firm derby for 11 games, yet the form of Andy Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, was such that it took two goals of stunning quality to give Celtic the victory their overall play deserved.

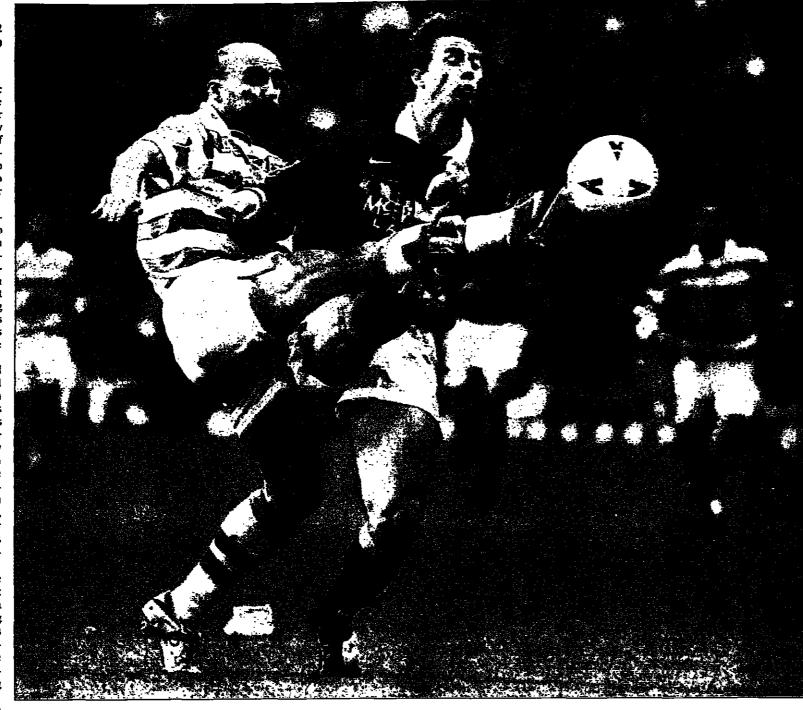
Craig Burley and Paul Lambert scored in the second half to close up the title race, with Rangers now holding a onepoint lead over Celtic and a twopoint advantage over Hearts in the Premier Division. Apart from spells at the beginning and end of the game, the visitors failed to impose themselves, as they have done so often in these games

The form of Lambert and Burley, the goalscorers, as well as that of Marc Rieper. Alan Stubbs and Enrico Annoni was crucial to Celtic's victory as every one of those players gave as good a performance as they have all season. There was a starting place for the first time for Harald Brattbakk, the Austrian striker, signed for £4.2m from Rosenborg Trondbeim, but he was given a close-up view of Goram's abilities, the Ranges goalkeeper once again threatening to break Celtic's heart.

He saved in the 27th minute from Brattbakk's angled shot from inside the penalty area and, with Tom Boyd delivering a pass from the left nine minutes later, Brattbakk escaped the attentions of Richard Gough, the Rangers captain, before shooting and once again watching Goram produce a superb stop.

The first half was largely a tactical battle, with both sides committing five players each to a congested midfield. The result was that, apart from Brattbakk's chances, the two goalkeepers had a relatively quiet time.

The transformation on the restart was dramatic as Celtic forced the play, squeezed the game and searched for the opening goal. Burley had a shot deflected two minutes into the second half and from the resultant corner Stubbs saw his the hand of Goram, who produced a fine flying save.



Enrico Annoni, the Celtic defender, is first to the ball to deny Rangers' Brian Laudrup in the Old Firm derby yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

dominate, Rieper headed over shortly afterwards and on the hour Goram again denied Brattbakk and Henrik Larsson saw his shot blocked on the line by Alex Cleland.

The opening goal was a welltaken effort by Burley in the 66th minute. Jackie McNamara sent a reverse pass to his midfield team-mate, and the former utes from time. With Celtic continuing to eighth goal of the season.

for a while, and with the introduction of Paul Gascoigne in the 71st minute for Jorg Albertz. Rangers threatened to take advantage of the home side's hesitancy. However, any doubts as to the destination of the points second goal for Celtic five min-

Celtic's ascendancy faltered

powerful angled drive into the an outstanding save by Goram. bottom corner of the net for his who denied Darren Jackson manager, the victory will justi- my players and pleased with the with a magnificent parry. But fy the changes he has brought performance, but there is a lot Reference

the ball was still in play and to the club since arriving in the found its way to Lambert, whose 25-vard drive crashed in off the top of the post.

There was no complaint from Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, who recognised that his side had been second best were wiped out with a cracking on the day. He said: "We were

summer. His signings are beginning to gell and the hope of the Celtic coach is that the players will carry a new belief into the new year. True to form, however, Jansen refused to get carried away with this victory.

"It is only three points, the beaten by the better side, with same as any other game and Celtic looking more hungry for there is still a long way to go before the title will be decided." For Wim Jansen, the Celtic he said. "Yes, I was pleased for anager, the victory will justimy players and pleased with the drug Substitute not used: Snetders (gk).

ensure that with Celtic and Hearts both competing, this is one championship which will be more open than in the past when Rangers have virtually wrapped up the title by the turn of the year.

of hard work still to be done."

The result at Celtic Park will

O'Neill seeks personal hearing on misconduct charge

Martin O'Neill is to seek a misconduct.

The Leicester City manager is in the dock after an alleged confrontation in the tunnel with referee Jeff Winter after his side's recent Premiership game last-minute penalty award incensed O'Neill, especially as it gave the visitors their first away win in the league for 12 months.

"I would hope that the FA what happened," O'Neill said. that fans who stand are causing Merrett, said yesterday.

Football Association charge of duct charge after allegedly grabbing referee Gerald Ashby burn at Ewood Park on 20 December, while Manchester City striker Paul Dickov faces a similar charge over alleged re-

Birmingham on 13 December. Manchester United are rethe row with fans over standing want to hear my view about at Old Trafford. United claim

West Ham midfielder Steve. safety problems and that Trafpersonal hearing to answer a Lomas is also up on a miscon- ford Council will close down parts of the ground if the problem continues, while fans have during the match with Black- sought a meeting with the club

to discuss the matter. fans for their co-operation in their latest newsletter, but they cessful in their appeal. at home to Everton. Everton's marks made to Andy D'Ursoe have already banned several following the game against supporters for what they term

"persistent standing." "We've taken a very relaxed fusing to soften their position in attitude as far as we can, but drastic measures are now called for," the club secretary, Ken

Christian Gross' fitness Switzerland, "When I say yes to of 95 years to Chartwell Land coach, Fritz Schmid, has gone a club, I mean it 100 per cent." for £7.4m to clear debts, and home to Switzerland while the he said. "I am not a man who Department of Education and says after a few weeks, 'that's it'. now paid Chartwell £24m for Employment reconsiders his I am a fighter." work permit application. The club has appealed to Schmid could be back in a fort- Gross said: "The best way to Brighton and Hove Council, night if Tottenham are suc-

> talks with Les Ferdinand over can." the striker's claims that he had been forced to train while unfit, committed himself to Tottenham yesterday, dispelling doubts that the Schmid problem

may lead him to return to

Of the Ferdinand affair, handle an injury is to train the said he was "outraged" at the day afterwards and not to wait. news because none of the mon-Gross, who said he had had You have to start as soon as you ey would find its way back to the

Brighton's former home, the club sold it for two years ago. from this."

The Seagulls sold their home

Abbev Life Assurance have what will soon be a retail park.

'Lord Bassam, leader of struggling Third Division club.

"Albion needs a serious in-Goldstone Ground, has jection of cash to solve its probchanged hands for more than lems," he said. "It offends me three times the amount the that the club will not benefit

John Curtis

SPORTING DIGEST

Basketball

Ski Hotline

Allen Nerson scored 29 points and had 11 assists as the Philadelphia 76ers re-covered from a slow start to beat the Vancouver Grizzlies 115-104 on Thurs-day. Jim Jackson finished with 21 points, Mark Davis scored 16 and rock-ie Tim Thomas 15 for the 76ers, who costed a sesson, highly points that and

from 200+ resorts in Europe and

Voice reports 089! 333 IIO + code

Fax reports 0897 500 086 + code

For a full list of all ski codes by

voice or fax dial 0990 100 843

At a glance to snow conditions at

over 200 resorts world-wide

in association with

N EWSTEL

Ski Snapshot

0897 500 601

improved their record to 2-2 on their seven-game road trip.

Cricket

AUSTRIA

The former captain Andy Flower scored an unbeaten 101 to put Zimbabwe in a strong position on the first day of their three-day match against

SNOW REPORT

AROUND THE RESORTS

Paine Grand Massif times now open

Calls to 0891 numbers cost 50p/min; to 08975 numbers £l/min at all times. Helpline 0870 0990 133 345.

a Sri Lanka Board XI in Matara yes-terday. Flower hit nine fours in 256 min-utes to become the highest scorer for tres to become the righest scorer for Zmbabwe in their three tours to Sri Lanka. He beat the previous record of 78 scored by David Houghton dur-ing the 1983-84 series. Half-centuries by Grant Flower, Andy's brother, and the newcomer Murray Goodwin boost-ed the total to 311 for 6 at the close.

Last Lwr Upp

5 I70 Changsable

35 130 Snow shwr

· U & 28 (2

28.02

2.4

...Good cover of packed powder 197% 21 25 110 Snow, brighter

There will be no further play until to-morrow because today is a day of na-tional mourning for the funeral of a senior Buddhist priest. TOUR MATCH (Metars) First day of three: Zimbabwe 311 for 6 99 overs. A Flower 10 ino. G Flower 58, M Goodwin 52) v 9n Lanka Board XI.

SKOL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Pur-ffeet, Thursday's late results) Group A: P Taylor (Eng) bt D Smith (Eng) 3-0. Group Dr P Evoin (Eng) bt Part (Can) 3-2. Group H: H Robinson (Eng) bt A Warmer (Eng) 3-0. Group E: D Priestley (Eng) bt S Raw (Eng) 3-0.

Football The French centre-half David Terrier, signed on a free transfer from Metz in the summer, has left West Ham by mutual consent.

Three Gilingham players, Ade Aldriblyt, Simon Ratcliffe and lifty Onuora, have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over an alleged incident in the players' tunnel after the Nationwide League Second Division game against Luton at Kenilworth Road on 2 December.

Phil Gridelet of Southend United has been charged with misconduct to-wards a linesman during an FA Cup match against Fulham on 6 Decem-

Coventry City's Northern Ireland in-ternational midfielder Michael O'Neill has started a three-month loan spell with the Scottish Premier Division club The Birmingham City captain, Steve Bruce, has delayed plans to move into management and will open talks shortly on a new contract with the club. The former Barcelona forward Ronnie

Ekelund, who played for Southamp-ton in 1995, has returned to Britain hop-ing for another chance at The Detl. Evelund scored five goals in 17 match-es for Saints while on loan. Marseilles will field their new attack of 2-1 victory over the New Jersey Dev-is in Thursday's National Hockey Fabrizio Ravanelli and Christophe

Dugarry together for the first time in a competitive fixture in the French League Cup against Châteauroux tomorrow. The pair have so far only played half an hour together, in a hiendity against Cannes on Tuesday, following Dugarry's signing from Barcelona three weeks ago. The Italian Serie A leaders Internazionale face the unbesten champions Juventus tomorrow as the league season resumes after the Christmas break inter welcome back Ronaldo fol-

break inter welcome back Ronaldo fol-lowing his involvement with Brazil in the Confederations Cup in Saudi Ara-bla last month and a trip home to Brazil. He returned to Rome in the earblaza residented by norther the earty hours of Tuesday morning and transferred straight on to a flight to Sicily,
where he sconed in interts 3-0 defeat
of France's Auxeme in a friendly there
on Tuesday, before finally coming
back to Milan. Real Mailorcals Brazilian striker Pathinha

is set to return home from Spain to join Flamengo, whose Brazilian interna-tional detender Junior Baiano has been linked with a move to Barcelona. The Brazillan International Donva has signed for the Portuguese club, Por-to, in a £25m transfer from Atletico

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

ice hockey Rob Niedermayer scored two goals, including the game-winner on a power play 1 minute 53 seconds into overtime, to lift the Florida Panthers to a

League action. The win was only the fifth in 22 games at home for the Panthers - they were their red away kit for the first time at home this season tor une missione at home this season to try to resurrect their fortunes. NHL: Fords 2 New Jersey 1 (o); Washington 3 Anaheim 2; Boston 0 Ottawa 0 (ot); Chica-go 3 Toronto 3 (ot); Phoenb: 4 Los Angeles 0.

Rallying

Raliying

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY Second stage (Nerbonne to Granada with a 35km special timed section at Châletou-Lastours): Cers: 1 B Saby (Fr. Misubshi) 29 min 1 sec: 2 J-P Fornersy (Fr. Masubshi) 29 min 1 sec: 2 J-P Fornersy (Fr. Masubshi) 4-1:51: 4 J-M Servie (Sp. Toyota) 4-225. 5 P Wambergue (Fr. Toyota) 4-230: 5 J Nerschmidt (Ger Buggy) 4-2:55: 7 J-L Schlesser (Fr. Buggy) 4-2:55: 7 J-L Schlesser (Fr. Buggy) 4-2:56: 7 J-L Schlesser (Fr. Buggy) 4-2:56: 8 C Souza (Fot Missabish) 4-2:59: 9 T de Lavergne (Fr. Nissan) 4-3:06: 10 A Saka (Japan Isuru) 4-3:43 Metorski (Fr. Muz) 4-36: 8 C Souza (Fr. Muz) 4-35: 8 C Souza (Fr. Muz) 4-35: 8 G Sala (fr. KTM) 4-1:02: 8 J Roma (Sp. KTM) 4-1:02: 7 V van Deventer (SA) 4-1:46: 8 F Fick (Fr. Honds) 4-2:03: 9 Fick (Fr. Muz) 4-2:03: 10 J Mayer (Ger. KTM) 4-2:14: 0 Versal standings: Cars: 1 Saby 38 min 46 sec: 2 Fortenay 4-1:38: 3 Shrinoules 4-2:07: 4 Servia 4-3:44: 5 Varmbergue 4-4:07: 6 Schlesser 4-4:17 Souza 4-4:51; 8 M Prieto (Sp. Misubish) 45: 17. 9 Kierischmidt 4-5: 42: 10 P Larigue (Fr. Portudt) 4-8: 41: 13-8 Roma 1-1:38: 4 Saryot 4-1:31: 5 Fick 4-1:39: 6 Van Deventer 2:08: 7 Morales 4-2:43: 8 P Marques (For, KTM) 4-2:57: 9 Solano 4-3:43: 10 J Olmos (Sp. Honda) 5:35.

Sailing 49ER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Perth, WA) First day: 1 C Nicholson and D Philips (Aus) 4pr; 2 M Larson and K Hall (US) 16; 3 M Baur and P Barth (Ger) 22; 4 A Beashel and T Wiseman (Aus) 23; 5 J and C McK-ee (US) 24: 6 P Arey and G Griffiths (NZ) 33.

Table tennis

The English and Commonwealth champion Matthew Syed has climbed to a career-high 33rd place in the latest world table terms rankings. Carl Prean is up one place to 38, while England's top woman, Lisa Lomas, moves up five places to 69.

SIDELINES

Composing a team of opposites

The path Mark Hughes followed from Manchester United to Chelsea is so well worn it is possible to create a credible team from play-



Maradon Fream st

ers who have represented both tomorrow's FA Cup opponents in modern times. In goal would be Alex Stepney - one game for the Blues and 433 for the Reds - with a back four of Paul Parker, Stewart Houston, Mal Donaghy and Colin

The artistry of Ray Wilkins (an £875,000 United buy from Chelsea), George Graham, Jim McCalliog and Mickey Thomas would compensate for lack of midfield balance. Up front, Tommy Baldwin would be an able foil for Hughes. Tommy Docherty and Dave Sexion, who each managed both clubs, could revive their manager-coach partnership. Graham Moore, a Welsh striker in Hughes' build whom

the Doc made Chelsea's record buy at £35,000 in 1961 was sold on to Matt Busby. One of United's post-Munich recruits, Stan Crowther, made the opposite move, and the freelance amateur goalkeeper, Mike Pinner, listed both Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge among his "temping" jobs in the early Sixties.

Seventy-seven years ago, Thomas Meehan, a teetotal halfback, joined Chelsea from United for a then substantial £3,500, only to die of sleeping sickness shortly after his England debut. Maxwell Woosnam, son of a former Canon of Chester and Wimbledon doubles champion in 1921, played for Chelsea before the Great War and United after it. A broken leg ended his career, coincidentally not long after his only cap.

Ten things Crystal Palace's midfielder Itzhak Zohar might be

missing in London SE25 today following his return to Israel

l An evening with 6 The Lord Napier jazz Michael Barrymore at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Less laughs than an afternoon at Selhurst, but about half the price.

the pair of television masts at Crystal Palace. 3 Going shopping without

leaving work — in the Sainsburys end of the ground. 4 The January sale at har, with a 100 per cent Dabners garden centre. failure rate at Palace, is Croydon. The perfect capable of missing a place to buy a new bench to spend Saturdays on.

coaching badge.

pub in Thornton Heath the place to go on Blues night when your woman's left, your dog's died and Zohar is in the starting 11. 2 The most famous twin 7 Frequent opportunities towers in south London - to go to Wembley - five visits for Palace in the 90s. 8 Marti Webb and Nigel from Eastenders in pantomime in Croydon.

9 Penalties. Although Zopenalty anywhere.

10 The rousing Selhurst 5 The coaching skills of Park cheers of: "There's Ron Noades, one of the only one Itzhak Zohar, few chairmen with an FA one Itzhak Zohar. One too many."

NAME OF THE GAME No 16: ASTON VILLA

One of English football's oldest and most famous clubs owes its existence to a cricket team. Cricketers who attended the Villa Cross Wesleyan chapel in the Aston district of Birmingham formed the football club in 1874. Their first match, against Aston Brook St Mary's rugby team, consisted of one balf of rugby and one half of football.





in the FA Cup this afternoon.

round replay I-0 at home to

Wrexham, while another

The East London club

Six years ago, Farnbor-

In 1972 Hereford, then of

· · • · ·

Last season, Harry Red-

On 2 January 1993, the If recent experience is any British weather did its best guide, Emley's UniBond to curtail the FA Cup pro- League side might just have gramme, when frozen pitch- a chance against West Ham es, hard frost and a heavy swirling fog caused a third of the third-round matches knapp's team lost a thirdto be abandoned. Undeterred, Second Di-

vision Hartlepool went Welsh club, Newport, then of ahead with their game the Fourth Division claimed against Premiership visitors West Ham's scalp in 1979. Crystal Palace, despite the fact that the pitch was icy have needed replays against and the visibility was awful. lower-division opponents sev-

Two minnows travelling eral times in the last 30 years. to Selhurst Park this weekend - Scunthorpe, who play ough were heaten by a last-Palace today, and Wrexham, minute Trevor Morley goal who play Wimbledon to- in a replay at Upton Park. morrow - can take heart . Twelve months earlier West from the underdog's per- Ham had needed two formance five years ago. matches to beat Aldershot.

A dubious 82nd-minute penalty decision it may have the Southern League, lost to been, and one barely visible a Geoff Hurst replay hatthat, but Hartlepool still trick at Upton Park, When won 1-0. With conditions at : they met again two years lat-Selhurst likely to be wet, if : cr. Hereford were in the not waterlogged this week- Third Division and won a reend, slip-ups could happen. play at Edgar Street 2-1.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS Full transfers

Mickaël Madar (forward) Deportiva La

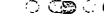
Michael O'Netti (midfielder) Coventry City to Aberdeen Netl Gregory (torward) (pswich Town to Colchester Utd Gary Germains wich Albion to

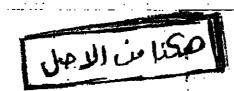
Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharl, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk





90% 31 30 % Georgeon





a team

Section 1 / 20 of the least of

ACCIONAL MARCA

The mail although he

managed the

in Figure 1912 - Ing.

Superior to the second

Tion 2. State of Times

11921.01

ftern. Att handard

nm II:

the wife

E-RHI v

Elequent on

go to Wen:

ate for Pelier

Marti Hicht.

om Castenu.

mine in C:

Parities, A.

during f

mail:

A Thirties

THE COLUMN

HE

ac li i .

करें हार

errer.

Gia Asi

THE PERSON

OFF C

£1

143-50

10.15

 $(1,\frac{1}{2},2,2,\cdots)$

ត្រូវប្រជាជា

12: 30.5

 $\omega_{\omega}(\omega) \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$

Atexbar. Walter Jak

h.F.

11132

 $B_{k}(x,x) = \{y \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \in \mathbb{N} \}$

 $g_{\rm th} \propto m_{\rm th}$

2 (same 12)

1.5

 $\rho_{\mathrm{MS}}=10^{4.5}~\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$

grave # (423) man Control

Logis

**

Sept.

Section 2

A 100 P

Tarible .

ii.t.

and much

draws in the

GAFFER TAPES

Three days into 1998 and al- of tea-drinking. English break- tra payment if they went up. office with a kilo of dope to sell services to the game, not to training in time to fine the latecomers, has gone by the board camomile and honey afteralready and a few others look wards. Later on he works his vulnerable, not least my pledge to have an alcohol-free-day once a week.

That's no surprise considering events at the Old Cornsuccess last week, scoring a hatthe leaders. However, he's now threatening to go back work permit for his personal tea lady.

mint during the break and way through four different fruit teas and a Ceylon before finishing with a double-

strength Lapsang Souchong. This is an area where the field. Fritz Unstartz, our English game lags behind the returning hero, was an instant Continent and we are especially weak. The old tea lady trick on his debut as we beat went to Fulham a month or so ago, lured by a golden teapot with the Harrods logo and a home if we can't secure a trebling of her wages to 3/- a cup. We got a fee but, seeing the improvement in Fulham's Apparently Fritz now has a results since, perhaps we

ready I want to turn the clock fast with lemon in the morning. Her replacement, a YTS to their kids, Sir Hirem's mention my low-profile chariback - to about 1973. One New Darjeeling and semi-skinned trainee, cannot even steer the threatening to go public on the Year's resolution, to get to milk before training, pepper- trolley, let alone cope with a PM's offshore tobacco holdings tea regime like Fritz's. But, and we've suggested Swettie while I can understand his desire to have his own tea lady I al appeal to the civil servant do wonder if he'd be so keen if she looked like one of my ex- a cup of tea you understand. wives rather than Melinda Messenger.

Swettie Bettie wrangles threaten to spoil the tea party. And where's my gong?

Tea-Person's Union, nor the Rosy Lee Foundation, recognisc Swettie Bettie's Diploma from the Tabitian Institute of Char-Brewing, so the Department of Employment will not approve a work permit. If we don't win the appeal Fritz says he's off back home, so we're pulling out all the stops. carefully planned programme should have negotiated an ex- Leroy's gone down the cabinet least I expected an OBE for rather than BG on it. "Short

might like to make a persondealing with the matter, over

If that fails I'll be lucky to manage an alcohol-free morn-Unfortunately neither the ing each week. Mind you, a couple of drinks are understandable, I need them to get over the shock of not being named in the New Year's Honours List. I was sure I'd be getting a gong this year, I mean, Sir Tom Finney? All right, he could play a bit, but his real job was as a plumber - football was

ty work - for more than 30 years I've been giving comfort and financial support to ladies in distress on the streets without ever seeking publicity.

It was all I needed after the dismal set of Christmas presents I received. A nasal hair trimmer (batteries not included), a set of brown paper bags and map of the motorway network for receiving bungs (very funny I don't think, especially as it was from the chairman). four bottles of cheap whisky and two football coaching books. At least Kit Mann, my faithful assistant, came up with a new puffa coat, though I was just his sideline. At the very surprised to find it had GF

for Gaffer," he claimed, which didn't explain the cockerel on the other breast. Still, with the old one at the

dry cleaners (I noticed it smelt a bit grubby when I woke up in it on New Year's Day) I'll be wearing it today. And what a day. The third round of the Cup, the most evocative weekend of the season. Personally I'll never forget

One-horse Town Athletic against the league leaders. One of the best own-goals I ever scored - me and Butterfingers Bertie made a killing on the fixed-odds that day.

the day I scored the winner for

We've a good draw, another Premiership side away from home. It may not look ideal to the fans but there's no danger

of anyone calling for my resignation when we go out because everyone expects us to lose. I looked at West Ham's draw and feared for Harry, So. he's got a good chance of making the next round, but what if they draw someone like Watford away? Or lose to Emley today? Better off with a nice and early respectable defeat if

you ask me. There's only one concern. Both Ivor Niggle and Shaun Prone are fit to play. The club historian tells me the last time that happened, we thrashed the champions 6-1 at their place. I might have to leave them out.

Barry Gaffer was talking to

Maradona's Napoli a them to the state of the stat dream still alive

ITALY

The remarkable notion of Diego Maradona becoming both president and coach of the Italian Serie A club, Napoli, has not yet – been dismissed as fan-

Maradona's manager, Guillermo Coppola, said this week that discussions to allow the former captain of Argentina to take over at Napoli have been positive."

Coppola spoke on his return from Italy, where he negotiated on behalf of Maradona, and added that the club have proposed a deal to bring the 1986 World Cup winner back to the city where he played from 1984 to 1991.

Napoli, who won their only two Serie A titles with Maradona in 1987 and 1990 but later sued him, are bottom of the top flight, having lost eight of their to be settled in the first days of January. It all depends on whether Napoli's president. Corrado Ferlaino, is willing to the Uefa Cup in 1989 as well as sports television channel. Iran give away his club shares," Cop- two titles, Maradona often have spent over a month look-

Ferlaino sells [his shares]. Diego tive for cocaine during a routine who led them to the finals.

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Referee Genes Red Yellow Pts Ave

1 G Poli..........13 7 54 89 685

2 M Beed....... 9 2 45 55 6.11

3 G Willard11 3 60 55 591

4 G Barber11 3 42 57 518

5 P Durkm 13 3 49 64 4.92

6 J Winter 12 2 41 51 4.25

7 U Rennie12 1 45 50 4.17

8 S Dunn _____9 1 32 37 4.11

9 P Jones10 2 31 41 4:10

10 M Riley 11 2 34 44 4.00

11 P Alcock11 0 44 44 400

12 A Welkie12 2 37 47 3.92

13 G Ashby11 2 33 43 391

14D Elleray12 1 41 46 3.83.

15 K Burge10 1 30 35 3.50

16 M Bodenham 10 0 33 33 330

17 N Barry11 1 31 36 3.27

18 D Gallagher .. 12 2 27 37 308

19 S Lodge11 0 22 22 200

(Premiership matches; Includes abandoned

gemes. Red cerds: Spts. Yellow: 1pt)

reputation. IRAN The experienced German

FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT **METCALF**

will take care of Napoli's football activities and will have absolute powers."

Earlier in the week Maradona had said that his aplast nine games. "This is going pointment as president and coach of Napoli "is almost 60 per cent a fact".

feuded with club management. "Maradona's offer is real. If In March 1991, he tested posi- the Brazilian, Valdeir Vieira,

UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE

1 Coventry......21 4 45 65 3:10

2 Leeds21 3 46 61 290

3 Bolton.....21 4 40 60 286

4 Everton21 3 45 60 286

5 Chelsea21 3 38 53 252

6 Sheff Wed 21 3 36 51 243

7 Arsenal21 1 45 50 238

8 Derby22 1 47 52 236

9 Blackburn21 3 34 49 233

10 Newcastle....20 2 36 46 230

11 C Palace.....22 2 40 50 227

12 West Ham....22 1 37 42 191

13 Liverpool20 1 29 34 1.70

14 Man Utd21 0 3535 167

15 Barnsley21 0 32 32 1.52

16 Southampton 21 0 32 32 152

17 Wimbledon .. 22 1 28 33 150

18 Leicester 21 1 26 31 148

19 Tottenham....21 1 26 31 148

20A Vilia21 1 24 29 138

drug test and was banned - not for the last time-from football for 15 months. In December 1990, Napoli sued their star player, claiming that his behaviour had damaged the club's

coach, Udo Lattek, has been offered the chance to take Iran to this year's World Cup finals. Bild newspaper reported yesterday.

Lattek, 62, said he met Iranian officials on Tuesday and Wednesday in Tehran and is considering their proposal. "There are several things I must dis-cuss," he said. "My family would not be able to come to Iran with me... and then there is the language problem."

Lattek, who has coached Bayern Munich, Borussia Mönchengladbach and Barcelona. has not been employed in club football since a spell at Schalke 04 ended in 1993. He current-Despite helping the club to ly works as a summariser for a ing for a new coach to replace



...and counting until the finals begin in France Nigeria may have a problem finding suitable opponents for

their programme of World Cup warm-up friendlies. In its wisdom the Nigerian Footbal reek that the "Super Eacles" will not play countries hostile to the African nations military rulers. Austin Mgbolu, an FA spokesman, said his organisation would turn down any re-quest for a friendly from any country which has had diplo-matic disagreements with Nigeria's government. "Ne ther are we going to approach such enemies," he said. "This is in accordance with a directive from the Sports Minister European opponents being lined up are Yugoslavia.



First Division

The difference a year can make

Whichever way you view the tables, 1997 was a bad year for the blue half of Merseyside. A year ago Everton entered the new year in eighth position in the Premiership, yet they finished last season in 15th position and are now only two places off the bottom. A table for the calendar year shows that Everton earned fewer points (34) in 1997 than any other club in either the Premiership or Nationwide League. Even Doncaster Rovers earned 37 points, although they did play seven more games than Everton. Manchester United, predictably, won more points (64 from 39 games) than any other Premiership club, though their 12-month haul was bettered in the Second Division by Bristol City, who took

League tables for 1997 (calendar year)

•	Premiership							
		P	W	D	Ĺ	F	A.	Pts
	Man U <u>id</u>	39	25	9	5	- 83	35	84
	Cheisea	39	20	6	13	72	47	66
	Blackburn	40	17	· 15	8	63	· 42	66
	Arsenal	38	18	11	· g	60	35	65
	Liverpool	37	18	9	10	6D	37	63
	Newcastle	38	16	12	10	59	43	60
	Leeds	39	15	14	10	42	37	59
	Derby	39	15	10	14	59	61	55
	Aston Villa	39	14	11	14	43	42	53
	Leicester	39	13	13	13	51	48	52
	West Ham	40	15	7	18	49	55	52
	Sheft. Wed	39	14	10	15	61	73	52
	Southampton	39	13	10	16	47	49	49
	Wimbledon	39	10	13	16	37	47	43
	Covertry	39	9	15	15	38	57	42
	Tottenham	39	10	8	21	-11	62	38
	Everton	39	8	10	21	35	61	34
	Premiership ar	nd Fir	rst Divisi	on				
		P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
	Middlesbrough	43	21	12	10	69	42	75
	Nottmoham Forest	43	19	14	10	56	46	71
	Batton	41	19	13	9	66	50	70
	Sunderland	42	16	12	14	54	47	60

Another goal conceded, another defeat: Everton go behind against Manchester ted on Boxing Day. Photograph: Allsport

ithtee	· 79	. 60	- 9 :		. 49		. ru
Sheff Littd	45	19	16	10	71	49	73
loswich	44	19	14	· 11 ·	-64	39	71 -
Chartion	46	19	13	14	72	67	70
Birmingham	48	18	t5 .	15	53	45	69
WBA	46	19	. 8 -	19	53	56	65
QPR · ·	45	16	12	17 .	59	65	6D "
Norwich	46	16	12	18	55	66	60
Man City	46	15	14	17	60	51	5 9
Swindon	46	16	11	19	49	75	59
Bradford	45 -	:- 15	14	16	- 47	55	59
Portsmouth	44	17	7	20	58	61	58
Reading	45	15	12	18	54	67	57
Tranmere	45	14	14	17	59	58	56
Port Vale	45	15	11	19	55	64	56
Stoke	48	15	11	22	47	59	56
ktord	45	· 13 ^	8	- <u>2</u> 4	57	74	47
Huddersheld	45	11	13	21	43	66	46
First Divisio	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport	46	· 23	10	-13	70	49	79
Bury	47	17	15	15	49	48	66
Grimsby	46	16	14	16	65	56	62
Crewe	47	16	10	21	50	60	58
Didham	45	13	13	19	61	65	52
Southend	45	10	11	24	46	86	41
Top Ten Nat	ionwide	League	e teams				
	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Bristol City	46	26	7	13	70	43	85
Wattord	47	23	14	10	59	35	83
Stackport	46	23	10 .	13	· 70	49	79
Wolves	46	23	9	14	66	54	78
Lincoln	40	64	:			·	_
	46 ·	21	14	11	- 66	56	· 77

Glenn Moore MAJOR WEEKEND

FIXTURES AND

POOLS CHECK Today

3 0 unless stated Off: Match postpone

FA Cup third round

Arsenal v Port Vale Barnsley v Bolton Blackburn v Wigan Bournemouth v Hudde

10 Crewe v Birmingham. 11 Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe 12 Darlington v Wolves 13 Derby v Southampton.

14 Grimsby v Norwich 15 Leeds Utd v Oxford Utd .

16 Lecester City v Northempton...... 17 Liverpool v Coventry... 18 Manchester City v Bradford City.... 19 Pelerborough v Walsall ...

20 Portsmouth v Aston Villa 21 Preston v Stockport ... 22 OPR v Middlesbrough ...

23 Rothernam v Sunderland 24 Sheffield Utd v Bury

25 Swindon v Stevenage 26 Warlard v Sheffield Wed . 27 WBA v Sloks

Nationwide League Second Division

Third Division Colchester v Harriepool

32 Exeler v Barnet 33 Macdesfield v Brighton ...

34 Mansheld v Rochdale

- Norts Courty v Hull City

Scarborough v Torquay
 Shrewsbury v Lincoln

Bell's Scottish League 35 Aberdeen v Dundes Utd

36 Dunfermine v St Johnstone 37 Klimarnock v Motherwall.........

First Division 38 Ardrie v Partick.. . .

Second round

- Annan v Vale of Leithen (2位)

Arbroath v Queen of South... Clydebank v Montrose ...

FA Cup third round Chelsea v Manchester Lhd (120) Everton v Newcastla (20) Hereford v Tranmere (120) Wimbledon v Wresham (2.0)

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Football
3.0 unless stated, in view of adverse weather conditions, please check with venues before traveling to any ousdoor events
RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Aylesbury v Gravesend & Northfleet: Basingstoke v Yeading: Bishops Stortford v Sutton Utid (at St. Albars City): Boretam Wood v Heybridge Swifts; Bromley v Dukith Hamilet; Carshalton Athletic v Chestam; Degenham & Rechridge v Emiled; Harrow Borough v Oxford City; Hitchin v Hendon; Kingstonian v St Albans; Walton & Hersham v Purfleet, First Division: Berkhamstad v Uxbridge; Grays v Whyte-Herstom: Kingstoriem v St Albans; Walton & Herstem v Purifiect. First Division: Berichamsted v Uxbridge; Grays v Whyteleafe; Leatherhead v Abingdon Town; Molesey v Bognor Regis; Romford v Bilericay: Staines v Hampton; Thame v Croydon; Wembley v Aldershot; Wokingham v Chertsey; Worthing v Berton. Second Division: Banstead v Hungerford; Berking v Martow; Bedford Town v Edgwars; Bracknel v Northwood; Canvey Island v Braintree; Chalford St Peter v Withern; Cheshant v Horsham; Metropolitan Police v Leighton, m Wealdstone v Tibury; Windsor & Bion v Tooting & Micham; Wivenhoe v Egham: Third Division: Corntilian Casuals v Wingste & Finchley; Croydon Athletic v Camberley; East Thurrock v Wars; Ford v Flackwell Health; Hariow v Tiring; Hertford v Dorking; Kingsbury v Hernel Hempstead; Southal v Clapton.

Cuptor.

UNISOND LEAGUE Premier Division: AlInncham v Sparnyrhoor, Bamber Bridge
v Guiseley, Bishop Auckland v Barrow, Blyth
Sparians v Chorley, Colwyn Bay v Frickley, Gainsborough Timity v Runcom, Hyde
v Winstoni, Lancaster v Boston Utit; Leigh
Reil v Attreton: Raddiffe Borough v Marine.
First Division: Bradford Park Avenue v
Writing Bay, Buccon v Stocksbridge; Eastwood Town v Parsley Cettic, Great Parwood
v Witton; Gretne v Flotton; Harroogate
Town v Congleton; Mattock v Belper, Traftord v Natherfield; Writiny v Ashton Utit;
Workongton v Droystden.
De MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions:

Workington v Droytsden.

DR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Atherstone v Burton; Bath v Ashford:
Bronsgrove v Burton; Bath v Ashford:
Bronsgrove v Baravorth; Crawley v Salisbury; Dorchester v Gloucester; Forest
Green Rovers v Mertinyt Tydit; Gresley
Rovers v Hashings; Rothwell v Cambridge
City; Sittingbourne v King's Lynn; St.
Leonards Stamorott v Halesowen Town;
Worcester v Namestich, Mildland Division;
Bedworth v Blakenett; Brackley v Reddich;

Corby v Bilston; Hinckley Utd v Evesham; Moor Green v Breston; Racing Cub Warwick v Grantham; Shepisad Dynamo v Statford Rangers; Stourbridge v VS Rugby; Wisbech v Sutton Coldfield. Southern Division: Baldock v Corderford; Bashley V Weston-super-Mers; Cavedon v Fareham; Chelmsford v Witney; Dartford v Trowbridge; Erith & Belvedere v Newport (IoW); Fisher Athletic v Havent; Newport (Gwent) v Fleet; Torbridge v Weymouth; Water-boville v Cirencester; Yete v Margate. tooville v Cirencester; Yete v Margare.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division; Atherion Culleries v Maine Road;
Biackpool Rovers v Burscough; Chadderton v Holser Old Boys; Darwen v Hasingden; Kidsgrove v St Helens; Prescot v Atherion LH; Rossendale v Remsbortom; Salford v Mossley; Varunal CM v Glossop; Warnington v Citheroe. Warrington v Carneroe.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE HIS DI-vision: Crockerhill v Cray Wanderers (25); Deal v Beckenhem; Erith Town v Chattram; Feversham v Lordswood (20); Folkestone Invicta v Turbridge Welts; Greenwich Borough v Hythe (25); Neme Bay v Carterbury; Ramsgate v Sheppey; Swanley Furness v Stade Green; Thames-meed v Whitstable; VCD Athletic v Corinthi-on (27) an (2.15).
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First Divisions: Arundal v Peacehaven &
Telacombe; Burgess Hil v Mile Oak; Eastbourne Town v Wick; Horsham YMCA v
Shapeham I Milesburges u Halitchiam.

Shoreham; Littlehampion v Heikar Pagham v Langrey; Portfield v Ringmar; Salideen v Hassocks; Selsey v Rechill; Whitehawk v Chichester. Whitehawk v Chichester.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston fown
v Stewarts & Lloyds Corby, Bourne v
Wellingborough; Buckinghem fown v Yaxley; Cogenhoe v Mirriess Blackstone: Desborough v Kempason; Pord Sports v
Storfold; Long Buckby v Eynestury; Potton v Wootton; St Neots v Spalding; Stamford v Northamaton Spencer.

ton v Wootton; St Neots v Spetting; Stamfort; v Northampton Spencer.
SCHEWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell v Odd Down: Bridgwater v Brisington; Caine v Chard: Chippersham v Bridgort: Emone v Weetbury; Isunton v Keynsham; Tiverton v Melesham; Pauton v Bristol Manor Ferm. Les Phillips Cup second mandet Wellington v Dawlish. ong round: Weilington v Dawlish.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
Premier Division: Curzon Astion v Ec-cleshili; Denaby v Armthorpe; Glass-houghton v Brigg; Hallam v Pickering; Hathield Main v Oscett Albion; Hucknall v Selby; North Férriby v Pontefract; Ossett

Town v Amold; Liversedge v Sheffield: Thaddey v Mailby. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Aerostruc-tures v East Cowes Vics: Andover v Chrischurch; Brockenfunst v Cowes Sports: Gosport v Newbury, Pomsey v BAT Sports. Totton v Eastleigh; Whitchurch v Bernerton Heath.

vision: Bury Town v Clacton; Diss v Sud-bury Town; Ely v Gorleston; Felbistowe v Tiptree; Halistead v Sofram: History

cury flown, Ely v Gorleston, Felbistowe v Tiptroe: Halstead v Softwin; Histori v New-market; Lowestoft v Wbodbridge; Slow-market v Warboys; Sudbury Wanderers v Harwich & Parkeston. Harwich & Parkeston.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth v Sandwell: Chasetown
v Boldmere St Michaels; Halesowen Harriera v Bloxwich; Kinga Norton v Pershore;
Knypersley v Willenfield; Oldbury v Shifmat,
Stapenhill v Rushall; Wednesfield v Strattord; West Midlands Police v Rocaster.

AND MISSION RESTORMENT AND MICHAELS AND MISSION AND tord; Wast Miclanos Police v Hocasain.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Balingham Town
v Seaham Red Star; Dunston v Jarrow;
Dunham v Stockton; Easington v Permiti;
Morpeth v Balingham Synthonia; Murton v
Northellerton; FTM Newcastle v Guisborcough; Shidon v Crook; South Shields v Consett; Tow Law v Beolington Terriers.
PURSES 8. JOURNAL HIGHLAND

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LAGUE: Bucke Tristle v Fort Wilson; Cove Rangers v Huntly: Elgin v Brora Rangers; Keith v Forres Mechanics; Wick Academy v Clachracuckin. v Clachnacutdin

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v
Caemerion (2:30): Barry v Ebbw Vale
2:30): Carmarthen v Caerses (2:30): Connah's Ouzy v Cernaes Yrrys Mon (2:30):
Cwmbran v Inter Cable-Tel Cardill (2:30):
Newtown v Aberystwyth (2:30). Porthmadog v First (2:30): Firstyader v Haverfordwest (2:30): Welstypool v Rhyl (2:30):
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Baltymena v Limited; Cirrionville v
Glensvon: Crusaders v Colerane, Gentoran
v Ards, Portadown v Omagh, First Division:
Bengor v Baltyclare; Camick v Dungannon:
Distillery v Larne; Limaved v v Newry.
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Derry City v Shamock Rovers (730); Killenny v Dundalk (730). THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: lpswich Town v Bradford City.

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Fourth round: Bath v London Scottish (30), Bracknell v Rotherham (20); Camberley v Newbury

(20), Fylde v Bossiyn Park (20) London Weish v Gloucester (20), Manchester v Lon-don Irish (20); Newcastle v E seter (30), Northampton v Bedford (20), Richmond v Doncaster (215), Rugby v Reading (30) West Hartlepool v Walsefield (20) Post-poned: Coventry v Laicester, Moseley v Sale.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Liv

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Liverpool St Heiens v Notungham (230). Lydney v Mortey (20). Othey v Hanoqaie (215). Two North: Appetre v Wirnington Park (230): hendai v Sheffield (230): Preston Grasshoppers v Nijmeaton (215). Sedgley Park v Lorlifield (255): Skourondge v Hindely (230). Two South: Barking v Weston-super-Mare (25): Bridgweare v Heriley (30). Ciliton v Metropolitan Poice (230). North Walsham v Esher (215): Redruth v Cheherham (230). Postgoned: Havani v Plymoulh.

Postponed: Havani v Primoun.
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Brdgend v Newport (20); Carotti v Pontyprodd (60), Neath v Llanelli (20). Swarisaa v Ebbw Vale (20); First Division: Abertillery v Aberavon (20), Blackwood v South Wales Police (20), Durward v Met thy South Wates Police (20), Lundovery v Caerphilly (20); Llandovery v Caerphilly (20); New-bridge v Bonymaen (20), Pontypool v Cross Keys (20); Rumney v Maesteg (230), Tire-orchy v LWKC (Carotti Institute) (20). TENNENTS SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP Third Division: Aberdeen GSFP v Siew-artry (20): Stewart's Melville FP v Grange AIB IRISH LEAGUE First Division

AIB IRISH LEAGUE First Division:
Blackrock College v Garryowen (230) Clortari v Constitution (230), Dungarnon v
Lansdowne (230); Old Behedere v Dolphin (230), Old Creecent v St Marrys (230); Terenure v Ballymena (230), Second Di-vision: Bective Rangers v Buccaneers (230), Derry v Skarnes (230), Maione v Greystones (230), Sundays Well v Cal-wegens (230) UCC v Instorvans (230) Wanderers v Old Westey (230).

FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: South Africa Under-19 v England Under-19

TOUR MATCH (One day): kenya v Eng-land A (at Narrobi)

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace v Leicester Riders (730). Derby Snorm v Chester Jets (730), Manchester Guntis v Newcastle Eagles (730), Watford Royals v

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Sems Fi-

Mockey
DTZ INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT Pool A: 5-eston, Combined Services, Stourport Capercalliss (Scot.) Pool
B: Doncaster, Harborne, New York, St Albans (930 to 730) (at Glades Arena, Kidderminster) Pool C: East Grinstead Hult;
kidderminster, MM (Scot.) Pool D: Bartod
Tigers, Firebrands, Old Loughtonians;
Swanssa, (930 to 730) (at Perdiswell SC,
Worcester)

Wordester)
WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE
First Drvision: Bradford v Wimbledon
(9.20). Working v Shelfield (10.30), Sulton
Codifield v Camerbury (140). Bracknet v
Earmouth (12.50). Ealing v Bradford (150),
Wimbledon v Wikking (2.40). Sheffield v Sulton
Codifield (3.30). Canterbury v Bracknet (2.20), Exmouth v Ealing (5.10) fall at
Cock's Moors Woods, King's Healthy Seoond Division: Dulmin's v Si Austel (3.51),
Eveter v Liverpool (10.30). Portshead Frebrands v Welton (10.6). Aldridge v Old
Loughtonans (12.0): Loughtorough Stu-Loughtonans (120): Loughtonough Students v St Albans (1255): Exerter v St Austell (135), Liverpool v Old Loughtonians (215): Duhwich v Aldridge (256), Welton v Loughborough Students (335): St Austell v Por-

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Basingstot e Bison (630), Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (70).

Sheff Utd.

Other sports ATHLETICS: World Cross Challenge (Dur-

EXPRESS CUP: Nottingham Panthers v Brackhell Bees (70).

SNOOKER: World Chempionship qualifiers (Norbreck Castle, Blackpool)

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Cork City v Finn Harps (20)

Rugby Union TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Fourth round: Blackheath v Saracens (30); Wasps v Har-leguns (30); Wortester v Bristol (230). SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPION-SHIP: Caledonia v Glasgow (20) (at Rubis-lan. Aberdeen); Edmburgh v Scottish Borders (20) (at Inverterly). AIB IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Shan non v Young Munster (230). Cricket

Statistics: Brian Sears

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: South Africa Under-19 v England Under-19 TOUR MATCH (One day); Kenya v England

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Warford Ployals (5:30); Sheffield Sharks v Thames Valley Tigers (60); Greater London Leopards v Bullets Brimingham (50); London Towers v Manchester Glants (6:0).

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL CUP Semi-final: Coventry v Richmond (30) WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Semi-fi-

DTZ INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOUR-NAMENT: Winners' play-offs (start 9:30). Finel: 3:20 (al Glades Arena, Kiddermin-WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE WOMEN'S National Introduct Emand-Premier Division: Sough v Elecister (200); loswich v Otton Terraquest (1030); Hightown v Doncaster (h40); Chetmistord v Sough (1240); Leosasur v Joswich (130); Otton Ter-raquest v Hightown (220); Doncaster v

Chekristord (310) (ell at Crystal Palace ASC). First Division: 920 Woking v Sutton Coldried (920): 1030 Brackneti v Ealing (1030): 1140 Wimbledon v Sheffield (1140); 250 Carterbury v Exmouth (1250); 150 Bradford v Woking (150): 240 Sutton Coldrield v Bradford (240): 330 Ealing v Wimbledon (330): 420 Sheffield v Canterbury (420): 530 Eamouth v Bradford (530) (all Cook's Moors Woods (Mog's Heath). Second Division: Portishead Frebrands v Liverpool (875): Loughborough Students v Einter (100); Aldridge v St Austel (105); Welton v St Albans (120); Old Loughtonians v Dulwich (1255); Liverpool v Adridge (135); St Albans v Liverpool (255); St Austel v Welton (335); Einter v Old Loughonians (15); Pornshead Firebrands v Dulwich (455) (all al East Grinstead HC).

ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastie Cobra EXPRESS CUP: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff

Other sports DARTS: Skol World Championship (Circus Tavem, Purificet).

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 31/12/97. The winning numbers: 8, 13, 18, 21, 23, 29. Bonus number: 30. Total Sales: £34,513,590. Prize Fund: £15,531,116 (45% of ticket sales).

		TOTAL EACH TIER
6_	£709,579	£4.257,474
17	£77,058	£1,309,986
941	£870	£818.670
48,723	£36	£1.754,028
734.366	£10	£7,343,660
784.053		£15.483.818
	48.723 734.366	17 £77.058 941 £870 48.723 £36 734.366 £10 784.053

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

is the count of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail

⊕ 🥽 🔮 🗨

Chelsea's goalkeeping Dutchman flying in face of adversity

Ed de Goey watched Chelsea win last season's FA Cup on television in Rotterdam. When they begin their defence of the trophy at Stamford Bridge tomorrow he will be more closely involved minding Chelsea's goal against free-scoring Manchester United. As he prepared for the third round tie, he spoke to Glenn Moore.

With his broad-shouldered gangling frame, lugubrious face, moustache, shaggy hair, high forehead and prominent eyes Ed de Goey is the nearest thing the Premiership has to Donald Sutherland. There were those, when he first started guarding the Chelsea goal, who suggested he played like the actor as well.

The goal he conceded to Southampton, when Kevin Davies caught him hesitating over a clearance, was the most obvious error but whenever the ball was in the air De Goev did not appear to inspire confidence. With Chelsea having more keepers than London Zoo, the Dutchman's chances of holding off Frode Grodas, Dmitri Kharin, Kevin Hitchcock and Nick Colgan seemed numbered.

But tomorrow he keeps goal against Manchester United as one of the Premiership's form goalkeepers. With hard work and good advice he has adapted to the more physical nature of the English game, sharpened his play and begun keeping clean sheets.

In the last 11 matches De Goey has conceded seven goals and, despite the uncertain start, his League record of 21 in 21 is bettered only by Peter Schmeichel, David James and Kasey Keller of the Premiership's regular custodians.

This achievement is all the more creditable in the context of the team. No disrespect to the admirable Nigel Martyn but it is one thing to keep goal behind a blanket of white shirts, another entirely to do so behind the gaping holes sometimes left by Ruud Gullit's cavaliers.

De Goey, who was signed last summer from Feyenoord for £2.2m, a Dutch record for a goalkeeper, admits he had early problems. "It was difficult in the beginning," he said as we sat in the canteen at Chelsea's training ground in west London. Searching for the diplomatic phrase, he explained: "Players are allowed more contact against the goalkeeper than in Holland, so I have to protect myself more. I am improving and can improve more. As for that goal against Southampton... I went to play the ball to Frank Sinclair but he was looking the other way so I took one more touch - but I did not see the striker."

"When he came he needed to adapt to Eddie Niedzwiecki, Chelsea's goalkeeping coach and, before injury brought a premature end to his career, their last consistently good goalkeeper. .

"I know people had their questionmarks over him when he first came but it always takes time: it is a lot quicker here, there are bigger crowds and probably more pressure. He's taken the challenge on board and done very well. His performances in the last couple of weeks show how he's improved. He's commanding his

"I've been working with him on crosses. Over here players hit the goalkeeper a lot more than in Holland. I go to see most of the opponents so I can inform him on various aspects of the game that might



Tall order: Ed de Goey now ranks as Chelsea's first-choice goalkeeper after an uncertain start in the Premiership

Photograph: Robert Hallam

gers he might face in a game. "One of the things he had not really done in Holland was work on footwork in terms of the quick movement across the goal. That's very important in the everyday game and that has developed. He was

diagonal balls into feet, the various dan- despite the Southampton goal. He has also lost a stone in weight and feels better for

"Ruud knew what he wanted when he signed him and had confidence in him. We've worked hard and you are now seeing an outstanding goalkeeper who is occur: corners, free-kicks, whether they hit already good with his feet on the ball, performing at the highest level."

be on duty at the other end tomorrow. Peter Schmeichel is the first name De Goey mentions when we talk about other goalkeepers, and Niedzwiecki added: "Schmeichel is held in great esteem. He's come here and is now dominating the art of goalkeeping. The best are judged on clean this season and De Goey said: "It is a tough

The benchmark will, fitness permitting. sheets and the number of mistakes they make in a season: the men who make one or two stay at the top. Schmeichel has presence, he commands his area and consistently produces important saves. That is

what we are looking to emulate." Chelsea and United have drawn twice game but a nice one. The last couple of games we've had difficulties with small teams who press us and do not allow us to play our football. Manchester United and Chelsea are teams that want to play football so it should be good game. I would love to play at Wembley in the final. I saw it last year on television, I do most years, and the traditions, the crowd, the atmosphere, is fantastic. But while the FA Cup is important, and we want to defend it well, it is it just one of four competitions we are

irclough

Port Vale

ndey v Bolton

HAMOSTIN FOREST

"It could be important psychologically [to win] as we've had a couple of bad results. We may be seven points behind Manchester United in the League but it is a long season. They have the Champions' League to play and have to come to Stamford Bridge.

Had it not been for a club tour by his then rivals, Ajax, De Goey might not have been at the Bridge to welcome them. Having broken into the Dutch team at the tail end of Gullit's international career in 1992 he played 27 consecutive matches, including five in the 1994 World Cup, before being dropped. Capped once in 1996 he won his 29th cap against South Africa in June, as Edwin van der Sar was in South America with Ajax. Rund Gullit was also there, to receive an award from Nelson Mandela. De Goey played well and, on the plane back, Gullit asked him if he was interested in joining Chelsea. "I signed three days later," he said.

De Goev, 31 last month, was brought up in Gouda and played five season with Sparta Rotterdam before moving to Feyenoord, the club he followed as a boy. There he won a championship and four cups. But he was looking to move - Everton were interested - and feels his international chances will benefit. "I can develop my game here and there are no easy games. In Holland you go to some teams knowing you are going to win. Not here. Sometimes in Holland I did not touch the ball in the game.

"I love it here. My family are settled and the people are very kind: they give you privacy. We are in Windsor. From my curtains I can almost see the castle.

Socially, the De Goeys see Tore Andre Flo, Mark Hughes and Frode Grodas, all of whom live nearby. Ken Monkou is an old friend and dinner with the Bergkamps is in the diary. De Goey's son, three in a few months' time, is down for nursery school (but not for Eton) and De Goey is becoming so Anglicised he sometimes has trouble remembering. Dutch words. He does not, incidentally, speak in Dutch to Gullit - "It would seem strange to the oth-

One adjustment that had to be made was Christmas football. The Dutch league shuts for winter and playing on Boxing Day. calender, was strange. Not that De Goey had trouble abstaining from the Christmas pleasures. He is teetotal, initially from not liking the taste, now also for fitness. "When we go out I am always driving." he said. "Everybody will be drinking and they will say, 'You can drive, Eddie. You're not drinking'."

The autograph hunters, whom De Goey, a modest and courteous man, had earlier obliged, have now drifted away. In one corner two journalists wait to speak to Roberto Di Matteo, who is notoriously slow to emerge after training. In another Estelle Cruyff waits with their baby for Gullit. De Goey, 6ft. 6in in stockinged feet, lopes off to the showers, a quiet man preparing for a noisy afternoon tomorrow.

Bayern twice came a cropper against village sides

campaigns last August, the FA Cup starts in earnest today.

The final itself apart, the third round of the FA Cup is the highlight of the football season. It is, as the cliché for the Compaq Cup, the Hungoes, the great leveller, the day on which the underdog, so revered in the English psyche. is due its day. And, despite the paucity of major giantkilling acts in the last five years, Chesterfield's antics last season restored faith in the concept of the FA Cup as the our, far less the magic and the proverbial banana skin for romance, of the FA Cup. the Premiership fat cats.

ticularly in today's game, where pattern of play - that we like to think of the FA Cup as unique. The English have always been renowned for having a nice line but when it comes to the FA Cup we certainly know how to blow our own trumpets.

The FA Cup is the world's oldest domestic cup competition, unsurpassed by any domestic competition in any country anywhere in the world. Its status was underlined by the cries of "Sacrosanct!" which greetleast the concession was made

With all due respect to the clubs by Littlewoods Pools, although who started their qualifying its pioneer Charles William Alcock must still have shifted uneasily in his grave).

Nowhere else, however, do they have such qualms; hence the reason the Danes compete garians for the Samsung Cup and the Dutch for the Amstel Cup. However, in these, and in most other European nations, the domestic cup competition is regarded as little more than a free ticket into Europe; few have the characteristic glam-

Take Belgium, where La It is for that reason - par- Coupe was abandoned for over 30 years (between 1928 money invariably dictates the to 1953 and 1957 to 1963) until the carrot of European competition became too great to resist. However, it is still a low-key affair: the final is prein self-deprecating humour, ceded by the women's equivalent and you can actually buy a ticket on the day.

Or Switzerland, where it's Frankly, we've every right to. apparently customary for second and third-round ties to be held at tiny provincial grounds.

with crowds to match. Or the Netherlands, where the KNVB Beker is small-fry to clubs like Ajax and PSV, who, as in Italy, regard the league ed the notion of sponsorship (at - as the true barometer of form.



BLAIR ON THE UNIQUE ATTRACTION

OF THE

FA CUP only competed for by Serie A ed playing Manchester Unitand Serie B teams plus 10 from Serie C and totally ignores the lower echelons of the Italian League. Teams like Bologna. Vicenza and Fiorentina might regard it as a welcome chance to capture some silverware, for FA Cup matches and but, for the likes of Juve, Milan and Inter, defeat in the cup

hardly constitutes a crisis. It is a similar story in France, at least according to Chris Waddle, who was in the Marscilles side which lost 1-0

knocked out it's a scalp, but certainly not a disaster." He says that the beauty of the FA Cup lies not just in the giantkilling possibilities but in the lure of a Wembley final. "We played the French Cup final in the Parc des Princes but I'd already played there twice that season, so it meant nothing."

David and Goliath, mean-

while, obviously have no place in Spanish folklore since the Spanish Cup is traditionally dominated by the giants; for the smaller clubs it's more a money-making than a reputation-building exercise. Castilla did shock Spanish football by reaching the final in 1980. but they faced Real Madrid which is like Manchester United reserves - and a 6-1 hammering put paid to any high-falutin' ideas they might have entertained. (Spanish television, incidentally, gets amazingly high viewing figures Canal+, which screened Mar-

as well as extended highlights). Trust the Germans to try to spoil the party, but the DFB to Monaco in the 1991 French Pokal, the German Cup, is ad-Cup final. Waddle maintains mittedly the one domestic cup Mind you. La Coppa in no way the French Cup "isn't really competition that rivals the FA to call it the FA Cup, sponsored resembles the FA Cup; it is one for the big boys; if they get Cup in the sense that it is or-rather than later...

gate's second-round match

with Fulham live, will be show-

ing three live third-round ties

factor for the leading clubs: the seeded first round is drawn so that no two teams from the same division play each other, and the lower division side always plays at home, guaranteeing upsets galore and plenty of money at grass-roots level. Bayern Munich have twice come a cropper against village sides during the 1990s, while the Third Division side Eintracht Trier have reached this season's

semi-final stage, disposing of

Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund in the process. Of course, last season's "family" Scottish Cup final between Kilmarnock and Falkirk breathed new life into what was a relatively tired old institution, but Rangers' Brian Laudrup, who won a Danish Cup medal with Brondby in 1989 and a Scottish Cup medal with Rangers in 1996, still maintains there is nothing to touch the FA Cup. Laudrup says the Danish Cup "never gathers momentum until the semi-finals, the Italian Cup is a non-event and, though the Scottish Cup invokes plenty of passion, nothing can com-

pare with the FA Cup." If recent transfer speculation is anything to go by. Laudrup might get his chance to play in the world's greatest domestic competition sooner

lack and Bull still waiting to realise a golden dream

Feethams, Darlington, away. As fields of dreams go, it's no Molineux and it's certainly not Wembley. But, if Sir Jack Hayward is finally to see his cherished dream of Wolves lifting the FA Cup realised then we must not, dare not, lose today. For Sir Jack, approaching 75, time is slowly running out.

He still he awaits his day in the sun, £40m of the family fortune on. How he must envy Jack Walker and John Hall. True, his millions have made Molineux a modern stadium worthy of its Fifties legends; indeed, the magnificent bronze statue of the incomparable Billy Wright which stands outside the main entrance acts as a daily reminder to all who enter of their heritage and of our expectations of them. The team, though, remain infuriatingly on the fringe of making that final promotion step.

For all that, the fans have waited patiently (1983-84 was our last season in the top flight), and in considerable numbers (Molineux hasu't seen a League gate under 20,000 in over four years) we can, if necessary, wait a dream. few more years yet. Sir Jack Hayward cannot.

And nor, now aged 32, can

"He hopes to make the stitution. If Sir Jack has recomeback at the end of this month in the Black Country body - then Bully has given derby against West Brom - us back our heart and soul. the team that sold him to us back in November 1986, in our dark days in the Fourth Division. He is the only member of the playing staff left from a time we couldn't pay the milkman. He has had any number of offers to leave in the interim; had he done so, more England caps and some winners' medals could be sit-

FAN'S EYE **VIEW** NO 238 WOLVES CHARLES ROSS

ting on his mantlepiece. But they're not there. Instead, he'll be sitting at the front of the team bus today, club captain and chief cheerleader, stuck frustratingly on 299 delay is only adding to the sense of anticipation - the goes in will be the sort about which lan Wright can only

Between them, Wolver-Steve Bull. Bully will miss to-sense of pride both in itself the English gent.

Third round day and it's day's game with a knee injury. and in its most cherished innewed the infrastructure, our

Mark McGhee's job security depends on Wolves getting promotion. With another campaign in the Division From Hell not past the half-way point, it looks like the play-offs at best. I'm not sure if I could take another failure at that hurdle (itwould be our third in four anguished seasons); but God only knows what such a disappointment would mean to. Messrs Hayward and Bull.

If yet another season ultimately ends in tears, few Wolves fans will be shedding them for McGhee or for themselves. But they will for two men who have each given us more than we can ever begin to repay. When we kick off that first Premiership match at Molineux, then it must be with Steve Bull standing there in the centre goals in a Wolves shirt. The circle, that black No 9 resplendent on his Old Gold shirt. And when a Wolves scenes when the next one captain lifts the EA Cup, it must be with Sir Jack standing proudly there in the Royal Box, justifiably beside himself as schoolboy excitehampton's two favourite sons ment for once overcomes have given back the town a the supreme good manners of

مكنا من الاحل

23/FA CUP

ne. The last couple of

deficulties with make

is and do not allow up

fi. Manchester United

came that want to play the grant game I would

abley in the final, I can

vision, I do most year,

, the crowd, the almos-

Mar rombe to the Mr Me Me

sportant psychological

e had a couple of had

ne serven amini helma

ad in the League but

They have the Champi

ay and here he come to

a for a ciub jour by his

Se Goest right not have

to welcome them. Hac

e Dutch team at the tal

rmationia eatest in 190

asecutive matches in

2 1901 World Cup.le.

d. Capped once in log

ap against 5 ann Afna

in van der ber nach

vith Ajan. Read Golf.

receive un un ard from

De Goes played val

back, Gulla asked bin ted in joining Chelsa

lays later. he said

and mouth, was brown

played the season on

am before woring in

ab he followed state.

champion-no cortag

kooking to mana-Eig

med - and the skip

ces will be a line

o here and that, dans

follow you process

ou are givened to an Notice

at My famal, in calcu-

every kind in payer

Minds: French

Manu Procedures

Ker Minkeling

De Goes - son three in

for Exeremental De Con-

Logicascu from the stage abening Duc. 15 K

otaliv, vpeak decent strait.

Artificial in a second

ស្ត្រីៗស្តែលខ្លួល ខ្លួន និង

Bristines Demonstration

tange. Not that 0.00

aining to the Carette

(celosu, initials in all -

STATE AND STATE

a fair shabs of milk

ywill be a taking as III

giffere Flide, beat.

PLANT WETE

Minima da maria

The second second

Di Maria de la constitución

o energy

le Cross

1. De Go

| lenes

)77/16

n prop.

iden area

MI TY SIT OF THE

10 Din.

the or from the

then Bo

素 1911 法 - - -

NA MATERIA

derei --

g pron:

inmittlett.

भूतकाः है 🗸 🖰

and the same of

generally at Novel

Frent Line

e ar ibi -

rece

act seems

Marie William

Mare Com and

SHoyest-

the court in

in another to

Mark William

September No. Commission

eter B.

BARY LANG.

hat Mortis

No Will Street

art ihree .

, that have

dens er 🐬

At 5 850

ge Life : **

he with "il

equally distri

事をつい

Tel Sugar

nght:

क्रमद्रसाल ३००

75.

Mi topus No.

Il that the

NOTE WITH

Ewint the Bergkette

STREET TO CLASS

gi Holland i Primmi 🎉

rsity Fairclough's men have to brave the fair times and foul

Stevenage Borough's travails are the stuff of footballing nightmares. Mike Rowbottom finds the non-League club hoping their fortunes will change for the better, starting with today's FA But while the FA Cup a want to defend it well Cup third-round meeting with Swindon.

> Bob Gristwood has supported Stevenage football club for 35 of his 45 years. Which means he has followed Stevenage Town, who went bankrupt, and Stevenage Athletic, who went bank-

And more recently, Stevenage Borough, who went all the way to the top of the non-League pile two years ago only to be told they could not join the Football League because their ground had not been upgraded by the 31 December deadline.

That is a blow from which Stevenage, one of only four non-League survivors in this weekend's FA-Caip third round, have not yet recovered.

As he stood in the rainlashed main stand at the club's Broadhall Way ground on New Year's Day, this anything-butfair-weather fan was probably reflect on his experience.

"It's been hard work at times," he said. "It would have nice for the club to have gone up in 1996. But they knew the rules. They should have got their Isthmian League under the act together in time."

That the club did not was partly down to the local authority, which failed to supply its promised lion's share of the £1.6m cost on time.

For all the frustrations involved, however, Gristwood has nessed by almost 8,000 of their remained a loyal fan, and he will be among several thousand Borough supporters boarding coaches this morning for the two-hour journey down the M4 to Swindon, where Steve McMahon's First Division championship a replay at Broadhall Way. contenders await their team.

in the best possible place to Grounds for improvement: Stevenage Borough, the struggling Conference side, mount an attack at Broadhall Way, the site that failed to meet Football League guidelines in 1996

tory for the Hertfordshire club, art Beevor, was not in the team tain the title and make the big that money had been required retained their League status in en Torquay's League place bewho in the past seven years have guidance of Paul Fairclough.

Two years ago they reached the FA Cup first round proper, and last season they got to the third round, beating Leyton Orient before losing 2-0 at Birmingham City in a match wittravelling supporters.

That record earned them an automatic place in this year's first round, and after beating Carshalton, they put out Third Division Cambridge United in

But the man who scored the This is not uncharted term- winning goal. 23-year-old Stu-

which beat local rivals Rushden risen from the depths of the old and Diamonds 2-1 on Thursday. Stevenage having had an unsettled season thus far.

> Fairclough, who suffered the personal frustration of being left on the bench as Harlow Town defeated Southend United and Leicester City in their FA Cup run of 1979, has had to renew the heart of his team this season.

After the anticlimax of their Vauxhall Conference-winning year, Stevenage persuaded their best performers - skipper Paul Barrowcliff, Nigerian youth international midfielder Efetobor Sodje, and leading scorer Barry Hayles - to stay for one more will, for £250,000. season to see if they could re-

They fell just short, finishing third. Many at the club, including the chairman, Victor Green, believe they were victims of their own success in other competitions - their progress to the FA Cup third round and the FA Trophy semi-final caused a severe fixture build-up.

Last summer, however, saw Barroweliff join Brentford for £55,000, Sodje, who has ambitions of making Nigeria's World Cup squad, join Macclesfield for a knock-down £35,000, and Hayles move to Bristol Rovers, for whom he is now scoring at Green denied that any of

to cover the estimated £250,000 cost of Stevenage's unsuccessful legal challenge to the Football League over their failure to

gain promotion on the basis of restraint of trade. Two further things came out of that court case, and only one was to Stevenage's credit. Although the judge was unable to accept their plea, because a precedent had been set in earlier cases involving Kidderminster Harriers and Macclesfield Town, he accepted many of their

sequently shifted its deadline three months further backwards. But evidence given in court ference contender. Woking, by Torquay United, who had

arguments, and the League sub-

1996 because the Vauxhall Conference champions had not fulfilled ground requirements, led to a Football Association inquiry which, last April, imposed a £25,000 suspended fine on

The FA, with the benefit of recorded telephone conversations, confirmed the allegations by Torquay's chairman, Mike Bateson, that Stevenage had attempted to obtain a £20,000 "incentive" for their players to win the title even though they had missed the ound improvement deadline.

Had the other main Conprevailed, they would have takcause their ground was already up to standard.

Stevenage have picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and set off again, but this season - hampered by several unfortunate injuries to a couple of new signings - they have found themselves struggling at an unfamiliar end of the table.

For Fairclough, who has

known almost perennial success since taking over the club in the depths of the old Isthmian League seven years ago, the legacy of 1996 cannot be ignored.

"If I said I am over it, I would be lying. I will never get over it. until such time as I am in the how, you cannot see the FA Football League with Steve- leaping at the idea.

nage. But it hasn't taken any edge off me. It's made me more determined," he said.

Today he will be hoping that the opportunism of Gary Crawshaw, who took a year off from football to travel the world in 1994, or Giuliano Grazioli, a recent signing from Peterborough, will eatch Swindon out.

Fairclough has a novel theory about how non-League clubs should be rewarded for FA Cup success in future. Any clubs reaching the third round, he believes, should be given lucrative automatic ties against the likes of Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea. Some-

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Arsenal v Port Vale

through injury. Platt came through a light training session yesterday, but will still miss the tie due to the groin strain he picked up in Arsenal's 2-1 win over Leicester on Boxing Day. Down has also strained his groin, in the north London derby last Sunday. Initially the injury was not thought to be serious, but further examination revealed that the right-back has no chance of playing. Gilles Grimandi is likely to deputise. Port Vale manager John Rudge will keep Arsenal waiting before naming his side, who have lost six consecutive League matches. Neil Aspan: Dean Glover and Matt. Carragher all came through a practice match this week. Mark Snijders is favounte to partner Andy Hill

Barnsley v Bolton

Barnsley do not expect to make any changes for today from the side that drew 2-2 with Botton on Boxing Day: Barnsley manager Danny Wilson has no injury problems and a fully fit squad except for long-term problems with centre back Steve Davis and reserve keeper Tony Bullock, Bolton have Alan Thompson back in contention for today and he is likely to start, but striker Dean Holdsworth is doubtful with a leg injury. Peter Beardsley is almost certain to partner Nathan Blake up front, Icelandic striker Arnar Gunnlaugsson has had eight stitches in a head wound but is fit and available to play. Defender Gerry Taggart is ruled out with a groin strain. Goalkeeper Keith Branagan is still suffering with his groin and reserve keeper Gavin Ward takes over again.

Blackburn v Wigan

Patrick Valery returns to the Blackburn side today after full-back Gary Croft was ruled out yesterday by a back injury. Scottish internationals Colin Hendry and Kevin Gallacher passed fit after injury scares, so Roy Hodgson seems likely to keep faith with the team who drew with Crystal Palace last Sunday, aside from Valery replacing Croft. Billy McKinlay is still missing. He is serving his final match of a two-game suspension. Wigan striker Graeme Jones is back in the squad after suspension. Club physio 5imon Farmworth is also included as cover for goalkeeper Roy Carroll, Regular deputy Lee Butler is serving a one-match ban.

Charlton v Nottm Forest

Charlton welcome back Matt Holmes into the squad to face Forest. The midfielder has missed three games with a knee ligament injury. Charlton are the First Division's top scorers with 46 goals, and in fourth place, are not far behind Forest. They may recall Mark Bright. Nottingham Forest manager Dave Bassett has injury doubts over four key players. Leading scorer Pierre van Hooijdonk (groin), winger Steve Stone (knee), Andy Johnson (ankle) and Scottish international Scot Gemmill (rib) are all causing Bassett concern. He is already resigned to being without Ian Woan, who suffered a thigh injury in last Sunday's win at Manchester City. Thierry Bonalair is expected to replace him.

Cheltenham v Reading

time in 64 years, lost their first game in 27 matches on Thursday to Yeovil, but should start with 40-year old Clive Walker, the former Sunderland League Cup finalist and inspiration to non-League Woking. With Phil Parkinson still out through suspension, Reading are expected to play with the side which drew 1-1 at **OPR last Sunday.**

C Palace v Scunthorpe

Marc Edworthy returns for Palace after suspension, Bruce Dyer will possibly feature after recovering from the ankle injury, but Neil Shipperley is extremely doubtful with a grain strain and Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano are out. Scunthorpe defender Michael Walsh, stretchered off against Notis County on Boxing Day with badly bruised ribs. may start. Lee Marshall (knee) is out, while, defender Sean McAuley is almost certain to return and partner Ross Wilcox, who was sent off at the Deva Stadium, Goalkeeper Tom Evans, who was at Palace last season for a short spell, will also be on the bench.

Derby v Southampton

Derby's Dean Sturridge misses today's match through injury so Dean Burton comes in up front. Jacob Laursen is also on the casualty list and will not play Igor Stimac returns at the back. Robbie Kozluk replaces the suspended Stefano Eranio. Egil Ostenstad is likely to be on the bench for Southampton. Kevin Davies was recalled in place of Ostenstad against Cheisea on Monday and is set to keep his place alongside David Hirst in attack after scoring the winner. Saints have slight injury doubts about defender Claus Lundekvarn and midfielder Carl-

Leeds v Oxford

Leeds are without David Robertson (suspended) and Portuguese midfielder Bruno Ribeiro (knee) but manager George Graham has Gary Kelly and Alf-Inge Haland available after suspension. Defender lan Harte is included in the squad. Oxford's new manager Malcolm Crosby is likely to name an unchanged team as his First Division underdogs visit Elland Road. Striker Nicky Banger has failed to recover from a groin injury so Crosby will probably stick to the team which drew I-I with Sunderland. Crosby's last run in the FA Cup as a manager took him all the way to Wembley with Sunderland in 1992.

Leicester v Northampton

Leicester could be without captain Steve Walsh, who is recovering from a harnstring injury but lan Marshall should be back in the side after recovering from a hernia operation. Northampton manager lan Atkins will wait for late fitness tests on Roy Hunter (groin), Colin Hill (groin), Ray Warburton (ankle) and Charlie Bishop (ankie) before naming his team. Atkins expects all four to be fit for his side, who needed a penalty shoot-out to beat off non-League Basingstoke in the second round, but are currently third in the Second Division.

Liverpool v Coventry

change Roy Evans has had to make to the side during their winning run of four straight League matches has been the return of Paul Ince in injury. David James holds his place in goal, leaving American Brad Friedel on the bench for the third game in succession. Paul Williams returns for Coventry after suspension. Despite having the worst disciplinary record in the Premiership – one sending off and nine yellow cards - his influence has been missed, with Coventry securing just one win during his absences.

Portsmouth v Aston Villa

Brian Little will be boosted by the return of Joachim, who have all resumed training after illness caused them to miss last Sunday's 1-1 draw at Leeds. Defender Adnah Whithread is expected to recover from injury in time to captain struggling Portsmouth. Whithread has been forced to miss the last three games with a hip injury but is set to return with David Waterman expected to make way. Midfielder David Hillien is still recovering from a bad-injury while central defender Russell Perrett is still struggling to overcome a knee problem.

Swindon v Stevenage

Swindon will be without on-loan Liverpool mid**fielder** David Thompson, who is cup tied if evin Watson and Lee Collins are in contention to replace him in midfield. Veteran defender Brian Borrows is out with a knee ligament injury and French midfielder Philippe Cuervo is still recovering from surgery on a hip. Former Wycombe midfielder Simon Stapleton looks to have played himself into Stevenage's line upfor today. He impressed in the New Year's Day win over Rushden and Diamonds - Stevenage's first league win in six games. Stapleton joined. the Hertfordshire team from Rushden three weeks ago, and should feature.

Watford v Sheff Wednesday Watford manager Graham Taylor is hoping to

complete an FA Cup double against Ron Atlunson ló years after his Watford side beat Atlainson's Manchester United in the competition. Watford, who have led the Second Division since the start of the season, have no significant injury womes. Sheffield Wednesday will have top scorer Paolo Di Canio back from a two-match ban. Norwegian midfielder Petter Rudi is doubtful with a back strain.

West Ham v Emley

French international goall eeper Bernard Lama will be on the substitutes' bench for West Ham after Craig Forrest's recent form has kept him. in the side. Captain Steve Lomas is suspended, while Eyal Berkovic is fit after a knee in jury, John Mondur faces a fitness test on a hamstring strain. Emley, who have said today's match is their World Cup final, are likely to field the same side that won through to this match, with policeman Meil Lacey guarding the defence and postman Glynn Hurst hoping to deliver an upset in attacl...

... and elsewhere

Winger John Bailey is poised for a recall to Bournemouth's side for their match against Huddersfield at Dean Court, Bailey has missed place of Jamie Carragher after suspension and the last two matches through suspension but is set to return to the right side of midfield. Former Southampton player Christer Warren is likely to be moved up from midfield to partner Steve Fletcher in attack with on-loan Charlton striker Steve Jones cup tied.

> Ipswich have England Under-21 striker James Scowcroft back after a three-match ban for Nottingham Forest. their game at Bristol Rovers, Jason Cundy is

Stan Collymore, Gareth Southgate and Julian - Cardiff Cit is hopes of including former Bristol City striker hevir I Jugent in their squad for their game against Oldham at Ninian Park, have been dashed due to an ankle injury. Oldham could be without four regular first team players Former Tranmere defender Shaun Garnett is suspended while Neil Thompson is Cup-tied Australian defender Doug Hodgson and Lee Sinnott are both struggling to over-

> Birmingham will check on the fitness of striker Paul Devlin after making the short trip to table on First Division rivals Crewe, Devlin has been struggling with a virus that has forced him. out of the squad for City's last two games. Birmingham's manager Trevor Francis is trying to turn the loan move of the Southampton leftback Simon Charlton into a permanent £250,000 deal as loan players are inclinible for FA (Cup ties, Michael Johnson is on alert to take over from Charlton Crewe record signing Dave Walton is back after a six-week layoff with damaged ankle ligaments. He is likely to be Dano Gradis only change from the team. that drew at Bury on Sunday.

> Wolverhampton Wanderers' Finnish international striker Mivu Paatelainen is standing by to start his first game for more. than two months in the game with Darlington at Feethams Teenage forward Pobble Feane will be available after injury. Experienced Darlington striker Carl Shutt is almost certain to be unfit. The 36-year-old former Leeds player is strughas kept him out for a month. Andy Crosby and Jason Devos are missing from the Qualiers' defence because of bans and the on-loan pair Lawrence Davies and Craig Midgley also miss out.

> the tre at Gomsto, with an ankle injury. Winger Adman Forties, who picked up a knock on the thigh against Portsmouth in midweek, is also out which may mean Daryl Sutch being pushed. straight back into action after a five match absence with a thigh strain. Fit-again defender Graig fleming, who has suffered a series of injury setbacks since his close season move from Gidham looks set to deputise for Jackson.

Defender Darren Moore, who has missed the last three matches with a hamstong injury, is still unfit which means that 18-year-old Andrew O'Brien continues to deputise. Manchester City manager Frank. Clark will hope his side can start. a Cup run against Bradford which could lift the gloom hanging over Maine Road. There are doubts over the fitness of Wales defender hit Symons, still recovering from a hamstring injury, and Tony Vaughan, who suffered con-

cussion during Sunday's 3-2 defeat by

Walsall goalkeeper James Walker is doubtful for the game at Peterborough. He was kicked on the head in last week's Second Division game. at Northampton, if he doesn't make it 19-yearold Danny Naisbitt will make his debut. Midfielder Gary Porter has recovered from a knodin time to play and the Saddlers could recall skipper Derek Mountfield to the defence.

Stockport captain Mike Flynn misses the return to his old dub as County travel to Preston. Flynn Imped out of last Sunday's league defeat at Middlesbrough and his side are also in danger of losing record signing Paul Cook. The former Wolves midfielder will undergo a late fitness test. Top scorer Lee Ashcroft could make a welcome return to the Preston North End starting line-up. The former West Brom forward has missed Prestons's last five games with a hamstring strain, but he resumed full training this week. Manager Gary Peters, whose offer to resign was turned down by the Preston board earlier this week, has fitness worries over several players, but has refused to name the men in question.

Queen's Park Rangers will be without defender George Kulcsar for the visit of Middlesbrough to Loftus Road. The Australian will be out of action for six weeks after badly twisting his knee and ankle. Gavin Peacock (knee) and Trevor Sinctair (chest) were doubtful, but both are expected to play Middlesbrough are without Gianluca Festa, so Steve Vidvers returns. Three of Boro's youth team graduates - Andy Campbell, Steve Baker and Craig Harrison are also included in the 17-man squad.

gling to recover from the thigh strain that Sheffield United manager Nigel Spackman faces a defensive crisis for the game against Bury with David Holdsworth, Paul McGrath and Michael Vonk are all out injured. Bury manager Stan Tement will have to juggle with his squad. Six first teamers are out of action - Paul Butler and Peter Swan (suspended). Tony Ellis (cup-Horwich captain Matt Jackson is ruled out of tied) and Dean West, Rob Matthews and David

> West Bromwich Albion midfielder lan Hamilton returns against Stoke at the Hawthorns, while Stoke manager Chic Bates is expected to name an unchanged team. Bates is likely to leep faith with the team which drew at the Hawthorns in the league on Sunday with Marco Gabbiadini again on the bench alongside fit again Ray Wallace.

Captain Wayne Jacobs is set to return to Brad- Tomorrow

Chelsea v Man Utd

BY NICK HARRIS

Roud Gullit will resist the temptation to start with himself in tomorrow's line-up, but he is likely to be on the bench. The Cup holders are without the suspended Dennis Wise and Frank Sinclair, Frank Leboeuf returns at the back after missing Monday's 1-0 defeat at Southamoton through flu, with Steve Clarke set to move across to right-back. Paul Hughes or Mark Nicholls seem set to fill Wise's midfield spot. while Gullit will pair former Red Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola. Peter Schmeichel may be fit for the visitors, but a decision will not be made until the last moment.).evin Pill ington is on standby to continue in goal. Denis frwin returns after a two-month absence with his knee ligament injury and he will slot in at left-back in place of the suspended Phil Neville. Ronny Johnsen is struggling with a thigh

Everton v Newcastle

Danny Williamson is back in contention for Everton, Williamson has trained for the past two days after recovering from a hamstring problem. But Everton manager Howard Kendali must manage without Craig Short, who has failed to shrug off a hamstring injury in time. Captain Gary Speed, the subject of failed transfer bids from Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday this week, is still out. Darren Peacock seems certain to return for Newcastle after injury, but Steve Howey (leg injury) and Belgian Philippe Albert (suspension) are unavailable. Newcastle will also have to do without suspended England midfielder David Batty and defender Warren Barton, who has picked up a new hamstring injury.

Hereford v Tranmere

Hereford will be without cup tied striker Richard Leadbeater and goall-eeper Andy Quy. Leadbeater, who scored a hat-trick in Hereford's 4-1 win at Kidderminster Harners on New Year's Day, will be replaced by either Tony Agana or james McCue. Tranmere striker Gary Jones is the only doubt for Rovers as the First Division dub look to avoid the potential banana skin of going out to non-League opposition. Jones picked up an antile injury in a training match so player-manager John Aldridge may put himself on the substitutes' bench as standby for the noon kick-off. Otherwise Tranmere are likely to start with the side which drew at Birmingham in the league.

Wimbledon v Wrexham Wimbledon will be looking to recover from

the 2-1 home defeat against West Ham last weekend as they take on Second Division Wresham. Wresham will go into the game without captain Tony Humes, Humes broke a bone in his right arm against Wigan on Bowing Day and will be out for at least a month. The Welsh side, who reached the quarter-finals last season, may also be without expenenced midfielder Peter Ward who faces a late fitness test after limping off with an ankle injury at Blackpool last week,

Ed

Sea

tact

lan

for i

ωp

Saturday 3 January 1998

Romance in the air as **Emley dream** of a Cup fling

Emley has become England's most famous village since Ambridge as its team of part-timers prepare to tackle West Ham, while any giantkilling at Chelsea will be inflicted by one Goliath on another.

As the FA Cup's annual slay ride begins in earnest at the third round stage, Phil Shaw examines the prospects for the great and the small and those in between.

Twenty-four hours and as many Underground stops apart, London stages two ties this weekend which epitomise in vastly different ways the charisma of the FA Cup. And no one personifies the competition's enduring appeal better than a time-honoured pursuit of conpair of strikers from FA CUP opposite ends of the football spectrum.

21-year-old postman who has spent the past month dreaming of delivering the upset of the third round, and arguably of all time. ROUND when the Yorkshire village people of Emley descend on West Ham today. A failed Tottenham apprentice who was also freed by Barnsley, he claims to owe his acceleration to dodging dogs with a full

Glynn Hurst is a

sack on his back. Mark Hughes did not fulfil his boyhood ambition either, but then four FA Cup winners'

help the holders, Chelsea, take the new year's honours against the favourites, his former club Manchester United.

The size of the task facing Emley's firemen, brickies and salesmen can be gauged from the fact that they lie 11th in the UniBond League, below such hallowed names as Guiseley and Winsford, whereas West Ham stand eighth in the Premiership. Still, they will have a following of 3,000 - from a population of 1,800 - and where better than Upton Park for a G Hurst to demonstrate his scoring prowess?

The battle of Stamford Bridge, like tomorrow's meeting of Everton and Newcastle. matches two clubs who have won the coveted old pot 11 times between them. Those élitists who advocate seeding in the Cup would away with such draws at this early juncture. Yet the thought that either Chelsea or United will be left to the

centrating on the League while lesser lights edge closer to Wembley encapsulates the beauty of

the competition. Hughes, whose team-mates have been bowing in mock obeisance and calling him "Sir"

since his gong was announced, said: "It's a shame one of us has to go out so soon, but if we can beat United we'll have put out the best team in the country. It's a lot like last year when we played Liverpool, and hopefully we can get the same result."



London-bound: Emley and their supporters gather in the village yesterday before boarding coaches for today's FA Cup-tie against West Ham

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

top division are at home. Equal- first appearance at this stage ly, while the Vauxhall Conference survivors did not receive the money-spinning trip to Old Trafford or Anfield they craved, all three bave a realis-

tic chance of going further. Hereford, whose manager Graham Turner reckons one big draw could wipe out their debts "overnight", would doubtless be more confident of seeing off Tranmere tomorrow if the on-loan Richard Leadbeater were available. He scored a liattrick at Kidderminster on Thursday, but Wolves do not want him cup-tied. The veter-

The tie, in which Denis Irwin an Tony Agana stands by after makes his long-awaited return a long absence through injury. for never having played for where a Premiership side must just 48 hours after their 25- keeper after scoring the Third back of six consecutive First Di- coming Oxford, who won a re- on Bradford with pressure are, one suspects, more likely Wrexham. Tomorrow, in his go out. However, a spot of un-match unbeaten run was ruined Division club's penalty winner in vision defeats and with a solitary play there four years ago. mounting on the manager, to involve hearts and dreams first match since being named intentional seeding has ensured at Yeovil, but should draw sufthe second round. Suspension goal to show for 672 minutes' play. Crystal Palace's wretched home Frank Clark. an MBE, he will be striving to that 13 of the 20 teams from the ficient inspiration from their would have prevented him fac-

since 1934 to run their First Division opponents close.

task, away to Swindon in a contest which pits two managerial Merseysiders, Steve McMahon and Paul Fairclough, against each other. The part-timers will be buoyed by the memory of how they scared Birmingham City 12 months ago. The occasion is also tailor-made for Ryan Kirby, who played with David Beckham in Chingford Under-9s football, to redeem himself after two dismissals in

egedly kicking the Hednesford

ing his former club Wolves, only for the ban to be rescinded after a refereeing rethink.

Feethams will be an even Stevenage have the hardest greater culture shock for Mark McGhee's men than if they were visiting non-League territory. The players change in cabins and the showers are cold, while the demolition of the main stand means there are spectators on only three sides -not unlike Molineux before its magnificent facelift.

Any complaints Port Vale have after taking on Arsenal are unlikely to concern the facilities. Vale, who list Spurs, Southamp-Darlington's Darren Roberts ton, Derby and Everton among was also sent off last month, for their Cup victims over the past decade, go to Highbury on the

"I've also had a lot of in- record should also give Scun-

juries," said their manager, thorpe hope, while the derby at-John Rudge, "but somehow I think they'll all declare themselves fit for this one."

Premiership outfits at greater risk may include Aston Villa at Portsmouth, whose Cup-fighting tradition belies their current parlous position, and Sheffield Wednesday at Watford. Graham Taylor and Ron Atkinson, with half a century of accumulated experience in management between them, ought to know how to put on a cracking tie.

Nor can Leeds, having succumbed at Elland Road to both Portsmouth and Reading in knock-out football last year, feel entirely confident of over-

mosphere could inspire Northampton at Leicester. Meanwhile, Newcastle face

the first of two games in four days which could make or break their season - and with it Kenny Dalglish's reputation on Tyneside. After five defeats and no wins in their last seven Premiership fixtures - and 11 of the remaining 18 away - their visit to Goodison and the ensuing Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final against Liverpool could be the prelude to an unthinkable relegation fight.

Manchester City, too, may be playing for more than simply a place in tomorrow's Stoke's service. fourth-round draw. They take

Finally, something has to give

season - extending Albion's run without a victory against their Staffordshire rivals to 17 matches - but Albion have failed to win in the Cup for five years. Stoke, moreover, have not knocked out League opposition since 1989 and have beaten only Bath away since reaching the semifinals in 1972.

between five-times Cup-winners

West Brom and Stoke. Not only

have the sides drawn twice this

Adding spice to the occasion, the new manager at The Hawthorns, Denis Smith, is more Potteries than Wedgewood and proved it by fracturing no fewer than 18 bones in

The breakages this weekend Fair times and foul for Stevenage, page 23

ELEVEN

Crisis, what crisis, as Gullit rules out return to playing arena

would put himself back in the or the physical condition." heart of the Chelsea team.

"I wouldn't bring myself into the starting side unless it was an emergency - and at the moment it's not an emergency," he said. "Of course I'd like to play. It's a

ed side on the rebound from losing to Coventry, and Gullit feels they might be distracted by other commitments.

"They've got a lot of prioribig game, but I've only been ties, but the Champions' League

Rund Gullit vesterday ruled out training for four days. I still is the main one," he said. "At Mi-FA Cup transplant surgery which have the vision, but not the pace lan that we did that after we won Chelsea will be facing a Unit-

the title for the second time. We focused on the European Cup, left the league for what it was, and won the Cup. I think that's normal and I can understand it. You can see they're more focused on those [Champions' League] occasions. That's OK."

Seaman yesterday as his side prepared to take on Port Vale. The He's feeling unlucky at the mo-training. England goalkeeper has come under fire for a series of below- cautious and that means acpar performances, but Wenger believes Seaman will use today's game to confirm his reputation. "The critics have been too

DOWN

Record's without effect.

lacking a detailed refer-

Highly active, Etna,

Key for compound (8)

Seasoned meat's done

drink, round measure.

15 Odd repartee, fruity sort

16 Is one to ring a girl? (8)

with last of chilli, about

amid fumes (8)

13 Vehicle has English

in boot (4.6)

of thing (4-4)

Cuts round chunk of

leisure (6)

ence (10)

pound (8)

When he does they stand out. ment but I've told him to be less cepting the odd error."

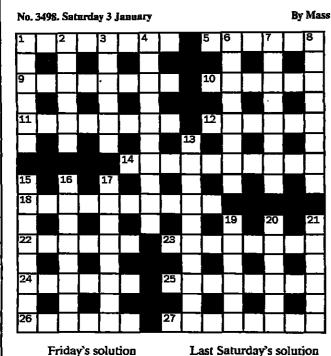
Wenger was also keen to put some off-the-field distractions behind the Gunners after Dutch

club, and that includes drinking." been a problem when Dennis ar- Cup. It's all about moderation." rived. However, his comments do

The Arsenal manager, Arsène harsh," he said. "People do not striker Dennis Bergkamp was re-Wenger, rallied behind David expect him to make mistakes. ported as saying he could smell It was on the players' initiative drink on team-mates before that alcohol was banned whenever we are together as a team, "There is no problem with even if we've won. However, we professional behaviour at my should not get carried away. The Germans drink a lot of Wenger said. "There might have beer and they won the World

PAGES OF **SPORT** BEGIN ON PAGE 14

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution OURSE ESSEN

ACROSS

Pacifist acquires medal and order for army unit

meat and chews (6) Malcontent's for trial 5 Decline, in a state, sec-3 Check with a Rook at

ond drink (4,2) Curb tots running wild, restrict movement (8) 10 Poorly housed in extensive unfinished dwellings

11 A setting for Egyptian customs? (4,4)

12 Trifle from page to amend (6) Like a player on song?

Tell us about the penaltyl (2,4,4) 18 Affluence? Eves treats suspiciously (4,6)

22 Audibly chatter in plane 23 Home's given detachment, comprehensively

24 A swell drum (6) 25 Dog's paraded, then given drink (8)

Pass by the Spanish church recess (6) 27 Briefly remove access in

17 American heiress I abandoned as escort (8) 19 Serious cut on middle of cheek (6) 20 Periodical carrying

French article on a Spanish province (6) 21 Fly, this Parisian cheat

The first five correct solutions to this week's pazzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SBL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: V Daver, Newton Abbot; J Taylor, Ratherham; T Jolly-Sailor, Hemington; M Montague-Smith, Ashton: P Mordin, Combridge

DPublished by New-yaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Carary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford and Hollinstood Avenue Published from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

CRICKET **TENNIS**

Wills Moody dies at 92

Helen Wills Moody, who won eight Wimbledon titles, died yesterday in Carmel, California,

at the age of 92. Moody was known for hitting the ball harder than any woman. and ruled tennis in the 1920s

Nicknamed "Little Miss: England's cricketers left holly Poker Face" and "Queen Helen," she won 31 major titles to the Caribbean this morning. including Wimbledon eight times, seven US Open titles and

first US championship in 1923

Wimbledon in 1938. Moody, whose trademark white eyeshade became an drawal on New Year's Eve came enduring tennis fad, learned the as a surprise to Michael Athergame without ever taking a les- i ton, though the England captain son - picking it up from watch- hinted that the fast bowler ing players at the Berkeley i could well rejoin the tour at a

Tennis Club.

A year after she started problems clear up. playing at age 14, she won the first of her two girls national singles championship - the youngest champion at the time.

medal in Paris in 1924, the last time tennis was an Olympic game. You've just got to learn sport until 1988. She was inducted into the International Goughie would definitely be Tennis Hall of Fame in 1969. one of the first-choice bowlers. coming," he said. "We have an that objective has become just Obituary, first section, page 16 it gives opportunities to others excellent chance of doing well, a little more distant.

'Queen Helen' Atherton's hopes for Gough

Darren Gough may still play in the West Indies this winter. As Derek Pringle reports,

Michael Atherton was yesterday still holding out hope for England's best fast bowier.

and hurricanes behind to jet off Unfortunately they also left behind their best bowler, which four French Opens. She won her i on the face of it is a bit like being invited to a barbecue and and retired after winning then having your incisors removed.

Darren Gough's late withlater date should his hamstring

Speaking at the team's Gatwick hotel last night, a fit titles. She was just 17 when, in and relaxed-looking Atherton 1923, she won the US women's said: "Goughie's withdrawal is disappointing for us and him. Since the South African tour, She won an Olympic gold he's been back to his best. But injury is part and parcel of the to get on with it. Although

like Angus Fraser who might and while it is difficult to prenot have been."

With the first Test not start- tween the two sides have been ing until 29 January, it will give close and hard fought. Alample time for the other bowlers to work out ways of doing without him. Indeed, with Gough's injury not apparently structural, it is not out of the question that he could be declared fit during the tour.

"I spoke to him not long ago," Atherton said. "He's got hope in the back of his mind and

IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Angus Fraser talks to lan Stafford about the task facing England in the West Indies

gets the all-clear, I don't see why he can't be available for the back end of the tour. The first Test isn't for another month." Atherton, who has spent the last three weeks holidaying in Jamaica, is adamant that Eng-

land have their best chance in

three or four weeks' time. If he

30 years of beating the West Indies on home soil. "The Pakistan result has certainly hit everyone pretty hard out there, but as ever, they are looking forward to England

did against Australia at Edg baston and The Oval, we can beat anyone. However, consistency is the key, and if we play like we did in the middle of last he sees a specialist in about summer, we won't beat any According to Atherton and

dict results, recent contests be-

though they are not as strong as

the sides of the Eighties, they

shouldn't be underestimated

"Playing at our best, as we."

at home.

those of his team who have: played there before, the Caribbean is probably the best. tour of all. But while their predecessors had bits chipped off them by an unrelenting pace attack, the current generation has grown up with an admiration and respect for the way West Indies cricket is played and watched.

side and a happy captain, a consideration the selectors clearly had in mind when they confirmed Atherton as one-day captain as well. They knew that had they appointed Adam Holniggle away at him, distracting. him from the main task of wip. ning the Test series. Without the fast bowling of Darren Gouges.



It should make for a happy lioake instead that it might well